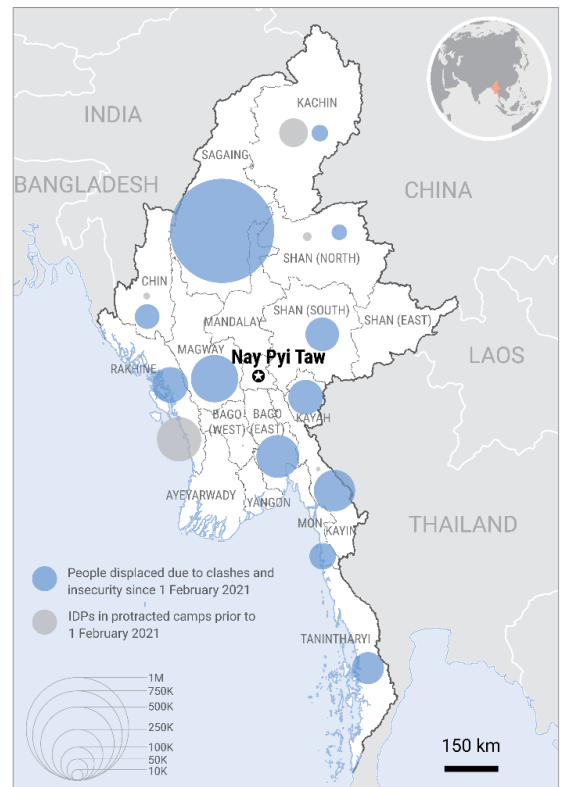


This regular update, covering humanitarian developments up to 3 March, is produced by OCHA Myanmar in collaboration with the Inter-Cluster Coordination Group and UN agencies. Response figures are based on self-reporting by organizations to clusters. The next humanitarian update will be issued end of March 2024.

### HIGHLIGHTS & KEY MESSAGES

- Across Myanmar 18.6 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance in 2024, with people struggling to survive amid conflict and insecurity, civilian safety and protection threats, as well as soaring inflation that is affecting people's ability to meet basic needs.
- Conflict spans various parts of the country with a deteriorating situation in Rakhine, as well as the Northwest and Southeast, driving new displacement. Nationwide, more than 2.7 million people are now displaced.
- In Rakhine, people were killed and injured in Sittwe when a stray shell, landed in the downtown market on 29 February.
- The closure of roads and waterways in Rakhine since the renewed conflict in November 2023 has led to food scarcity and other supply shortages, as well as increased prices of essential goods.
- The situation in northern Shan has been relatively stable following the ceasefire agreed in January. However, landmine contamination, recruitment by armed groups, isolated tensions and movement restrictions remain a threat to local communities. UN staff temporarily relocated from Lashio will soon be returning due to the improved security situation.
- Active fighting, administrative restrictions being imposed by all sides, and violence and harassment of humanitarian personnel remain key barriers to accessing affected people and providing lifesaving assistance.
- At least 3.2 million people were reached with assistance in 2023 however this support is not as deep or sustained as planned due to underfunding and access constraints.
- Through the [2024 Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan](#) aid workers aim to reach 5.3 million people with urgent assistance for which \$994 million is required. A repeat of 2023 funding levels (HRP 37 per cent funded) in 2024 would be catastrophic for affected people.



### KEY FIGURES\*

**2.7M**

Total people currently internally displaced across Myanmar

**2.4M**

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

**78K**

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.

<sup>1</sup> Data for Myanmar (up to 30 November 2023)

## SITUATION OVERVIEW

---

### Persistent conflict increases displacement and protection threats

Three years since the military takeover in February 2021, the people of Myanmar continue to face the impacts of conflict across numerous states and regions. More than an estimated 2.7 million people remain internally displaced across the country, with the vast majority (2.4 million) fleeing their home due to conflict and insecurity since the military takeover. More than an estimate of 78,000 civilian properties, including houses, religious structures, and education and health facilities had reportedly been destroyed in conflict-affected states and regions as of November, mostly across the Northwest and the Southeast, although this data is difficult to verify and does not yet reflect the expansion of fighting in over recent months.<sup>2</sup>

**In Rakhine**, ongoing armed clashes involving airstrikes and artillery shelling have intensified in many townships with affected communities becoming increasingly stressed and the Arakan Army moving closer to the state capital, Sittwe. This has raised grave protection concerns and exacerbated humanitarian needs. The conflict is now affecting 15 of the State's 17 townships with displacement surging. Since the year-long informal ceasefire broke down on 13 November, an estimated 148,500 people have been newly displaced in Rakhine and Paletwa in Chin. This number is difficult to verify in the current conditions, with challenges in data collection due to telecommunication challenges and the fluid movement of people. The new displacement adds to almost 64,000 displaced people who were living in camps and sites as a result of past AA-MAF conflict. A further 141,000 predominantly Rohingya people have been displaced in Sittwe and Pauktaw townships since 2012.

The renewed conflict in Rakhine has reportedly resulted in the deaths of more than 170 civilians and injured 400 more. Since late February, there has been an increase of shelling from the bases in Sittwe Town, near residential areas. On 29 February, a stray shell, reportedly being fired by the MAF from within Sittwe towards nearby townships, landed near the town's market, and is believed to have killed at least 21 civilians and injured more than 30 others. The risk of forced recruitment by all parties to the conflict is a major protection concern, particularly for vulnerable Rohingya people, as the fighting escalates. Since the ceasefire broke down, arbitrary arrests continue across Rakhine, with more than 700 people placed in detention for alleged affiliation to either side of the conflict.

The ongoing conflict has severely impacted the daily lives of all communities in Rakhine, raising not only the needs of displaced people but also their host communities and the general population who are all facing protection threats and survival challenges. This is compounding challenges for people still recovering from Cyclone Mocha in mid-May 2023. Closure of roads and waterways since the renewed conflict has led to shortages and increased prices of essential goods in markets and food scarcity. Internet connectivity and telecommunication networks remain disrupted or unavailable, severely impacting humanitarian operations and communication with humanitarian partners and affected people on the ground. Despite severe access constraints, some activities in IDP camps remain operational including through volunteer and camp-based staff. Additional funding is urgently required to replenish stocks of essential supplies so that current work can continue and wider scale distributions of assistance can proceed when access is possible.

**In northern Shan**, there has been relative stability following the January ceasefire that paused the escalation of conflict seen since late October 2023, although tensions remain. The conflict had displaced almost 140,000 people in northern Shan, although the majority have since returned. Almost 23,000 people remain displaced in 141 sites in 15 townships (mostly in northern Shan and a few in Kachin), while nearly 117,000 IDPs have returned to their places of origin within northern Shan or have relocated elsewhere. Despite the ceasefire, there has been heavy movement of troops, imposition of new security and administrative measures in areas of changed control, ongoing tensions and both forced and voluntary recruitment by armed groups. Landmines and explosive remnants of war continue to claim lives and pose risks to the safety and security of civilians including displaced people. In neighbouring Kachin, frequent fighting and tension continues in several townships, with reported explosions, attacks and recruitment.

**In the Northwest and central Myanmar**, armed clashes and displacement continue in Chin, Magway, Sagaing and Mandalay. Sagaing has seen increased fighting including clearance operations, multiple airstrikes, arson, and ambush attacks in numerous townships for months. The Northwest hosts more than an estimated 1.4 million IDPs, which is 60 per cent of total displacement countrywide since the military takeover, with more than 1.1 million IDPs in Sagaing alone. Amid access challenges, UN agencies have been working with local organizations to conduct joint distributions of essential assistance that are ongoing in hard-to-reach areas of the Northwest. The first round of assistance that

---

<sup>2</sup> Data for Myanmar (up to 30 November 2023)

started on 7 January has been completed, reaching more than 38,000 people in 129 displacement sites in Chin and Magway, with the second round of distribution underway.

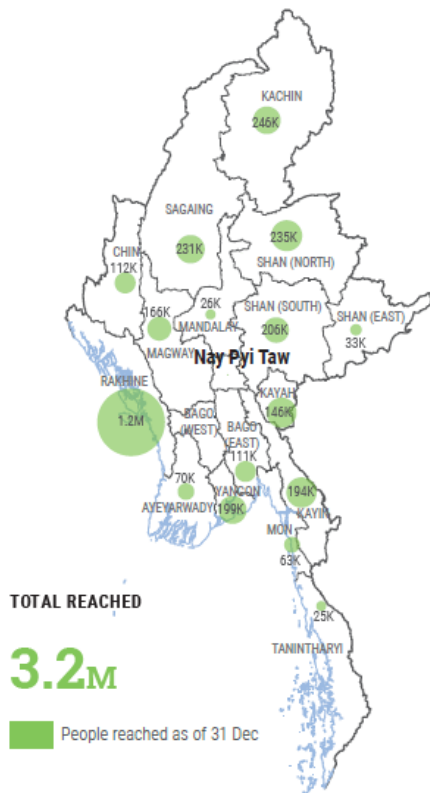
**In the Southeast**, fighting involving airstrikes and mortar shelling continues in eastern Bago, Kayah, southern Shan, Kayin and Tanintharyi. In southern Shan, at least 65,000 people in Hsihseng Township fled their homes to safer locations after a new escalation of fighting in late January. Similarly, more than 10,000 people in Tanintharyi Township in Tanintharyi and some 1,000 people in Thandaunggyi Township in Kayin have been displaced since early February. In Kayah on 5 February, airstrikes on two schools in Demoso Township reportedly caused the deaths of four children and two teachers and injured 13 others. UNICEF issued a [statement](#) on this.

### More than 3 million people reached in 2023

Humanitarian actors used a range of approaches to reach at least **3.2 million people** with assistance, at least once, in 2023. This represents 65 per cent of the annual HRP target (5 million people) and includes more than half a million people impacted by Cyclone Mocha who were assisted via a range of modalities. Notably it also includes close to 1 million IDPs who received assistance during the course of the year, reflecting a concerted effort in 2023 to better address the needs of one of these critically vulnerable groups. This is a 33 per cent increase on the number of IDPs reached in 2022 but still means that there were significant gaps in assisting the growing numbers of newly displaced people in hard-to-reach areas. Additionally, more than 1.8 million of people reached fall within the category of other crisis-affected people with humanitarian needs such as non-displaced host communities, highlighting the diverse challenges faced by the population and humanitarian efforts to support non-displaced populations due to the collapse of basic services and in the absence of large-scale development interventions. This underscores the need for complimentary development funding to build community resilience.

#### PEOPLE REACHED BY STATE/REGION

#### CLUSTER HIGHLIGHTS



- 2.1M** people received food assistance (in-kind and/or through cash)
- 439K** people reached through distribution of NFIs
- 270K** people benefited from camp management support
- 726K** people were supported to access primary health care services
- 54K** people received dignity kits
- 273K** people received child protection case management and psychosocial support
- 929K** crisis-affected people were reached with hygiene items and community-tailored health and hygiene messages
- 259K** people reached with agriculture support
- 105K** people reached with emergency shelter support
- 631K** boys, girls and teachers received learning materials (learners' kits + teachers' kits)
- 762K** people received overall community awareness raising for prevention and mitigation of protection risks
- 320K** children aged 6-59 months screened for wasting
- 445K** people received mine action community awareness raising support for prevention and mitigation of protection risks

Despite formidable access constraints, humanitarian operations demonstrated resilience by expanding into more hard-to-reach areas, supporting 64 per cent of those targeted in the Southeast. For the Northwest, 267,000 people were reached during 2022, compared to 536,000 at the close of 2023, reflecting a significant expansion in coverage of assistance. The Northeast and Rakhine experienced a notable scale-up in assistance, with rates of 112 per cent and 88 per cent respectively with the escalation in fighting at the end of the year and Cyclone Mocha driving additional response efforts in these areas.

Final funding of the 2023 Myanmar Humanitarian Response Plan was \$324 million which is only 37 per cent of the requested funding, leaving a significant \$563 million funding gap. While the number of people reached is substantial in the circumstances, the reach fell short of the envisioned depth and sustainability due to the substantial underfunding, resulting in an unprecedented level of unmet needs (1.8 million people missed), cascading into 2024. As a result, not only has the absolute number of people in need been consistently increasing from 1 million in 2021 prior to the military takeover, to 14.4 million people in 2022, 17.6 million people in 2023 to 18.6 million people in 2024 (the fifth highest in the world in GHO 2024), but simultaneously, the severity of their needs has significantly worsened. During 2024, nearly 2 million people are expected to fall into the highest category of needs severity (catastrophic), whereas over the past 2 years only a small number fell into this category (151,000 in 2022 and none in 2023). Urgent attention and a substantial increase in financial support for both humanitarian and development actors are imperative to reverse this trend in 2024.

## HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

**Humanitarian Access:** Intensified armed conflict, administrative restrictions including refusal of travel authorizations, and violence against aid workers all remain key barriers that are limiting humanitarian organizations' capacity to access affected communities and deliver lifesaving assistance. The ongoing heavy armed clashes between the MAF and EAOs and PDFs in Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Magway, Mon, Rakhine, Sagaing, and northern and southern Shan forced the humanitarian community to postpone or cancel aid deliveries, including for child protection, health, WASH, and food security during the reporting period. Increased airstrikes and artillery bombardment prompted several organizations in Kayin and Mon states to pause their operations for more than ten days, while unanticipated MAF roadblocks in many townships across northern Shan, Kachin, and Mon severely hindered humanitarian movements. Additionally, escalation of armed conflict forced some humanitarian organizations to temporarily relocate some of their staff members from southern and northern Shan, Sagaing, Kayah, Rakhine and Kachin. Lashio airport remains closed since 28 October 2023, affecting the transportation of civilian and humanitarian personnel. Interruptions are also now being seen for flights in and out of Rakhine with heavy scrutiny of passengers and cargo.

Administrative constraints, including refusal of travel authorizations, have resulted in delays and postponement of scheduled activities for more than one month, primarily in Kachin, Kayin, Mon, Rakhine, northern Shan and Tanintharyi. In addition, the military shut down passage across a crucial bridge between Mon and Kayin states for more than five days in early January, causing significant delays in relief deliveries. Additionally, Rakhine observed three incidents of violence against aid workers in January including arrest (MAF) and forced recruitment (EAO), disrupting scheduled activities for up to one week.

### 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 2024, 4.5 million people (1.3 million children, 723,000 women and girls and 146,000 persons with disabilities) are in need of education assistance.
- In Sagaing, schools in Kale Township lack water pumps which is forcing students to rely on unsafe stream water that requires purification. This has left 110 students (48 boys and 62 girls) in the need of safe drinking water.
- In Kachin, parents in displacement sites in Waingmaw township are struggling with transportation costs for their children to attend school, leaving 39 children (19 boys, 20 girls) in need of transportation support.
- In the Southeast:
  - In southern Shan, there is a shortage of educators at the basic education centers in Nyaungshwe and Hsihseng townships, as teachers cannot attend school due to safety and security concerns. In addition, there is a request for training in Education in Emergencies for volunteer teachers in the Pa-O areas of Maukmai and Hsihseng townships.
  - Solar panels and a generator are urgently required to provide lights for some 110 students in grades 1-9 to facilitate night-time studying in Thandaunggyi Township in Kayin.

## Response

- Countrywide, the Cluster plans to reach 1.4 million people with education services in 2024.
- In the Northwest:
  - In Magway, in 20 villages in Pakokku and Seikphyu townships, 1,181 students (584 boys, 597 girls) participated in reading club activities; 1,309 students (658 boys, 651 girls) were involved in social emotional learning activities; 1,008 parents (61 men, 947 women) participated in caregiver sessions; 850 parents (123 men, 727 women) were engaged in crisis awareness sessions; and 859 parents (119 men, 740 women) participated in inclusive education awareness sessions.
  - Student kits were distributed to 750 school children (337 boys, 417 girls), including 3 students with disabilities (1 boy, 2 girls) in 12 villages in Taungdwingyi Township in Magway.
  - In Myinmu and Myaung townships of Sagaing, Gangaw and Tilin townships in Magway, 4,297 students (2,229 boys, 2,068 girls) attended non-formal education classes.
- In the Northeast:
  - In northern Shan, education response activities covered 14 locations, including 8 in Lashio, 5 in Hsipaw and 1 in Manton Township. These activities reached 837 children (416 boys, 423 girls) and provided emergency supplies such as essential learning package kits, recreation kits, school kits, early childhood care and development kits, school hygiene kits, menstrual hygiene kits, first aid kits and tarpaulins.
  - In Kachin, partners distributed essential learning materials to 84 IDP school children (39 boys, 45 girls) in 2 IDP sites of Myitkyina and Waingmaw townships. The partners also provided learning materials and better learning program sessions for 114 students (53 boys, 61 girls) at an IDP camp in Waingmaw township.
- In the Southeast:
  - Some 61,319 children (28,973 boys, 32,346 girls) aged 3-5 years from southern and eastern Shan, Kayah, and Kayin received storybook sets for early childhood development.
  - 1,497 IDP students (740 boys, 757 girls) from 20 IDP camps across 5 townships (4 from southern Shan and 1 from Kayin) were supported with essential learning package, recreation, school, school hygiene, menstrual hygiene and first aid kits.
- In Rakhine, two partners have conducted final exams for temporary learning center students from grades one to four in Sittwe and Pauktaw townships. Monthly incentives have been provided for 262 volunteer teachers (189 men, 174 women) and 146 non-formal education facilitators (109 men, 37 women) in Sittwe township. In addition, cash assistance has been provided for 697 secondary Rohingya students (520 boys, 174 girls) in Sittwe to reduce drop-out rates and support various education-related expenses.

## Gaps & Constraints

- In 2024, the education cluster requires \$94 million to provide education services to people in need across the country.
- Schooling interruptions continue to impact students' safety and academic progress. In 15 townships in Rakhine, examination centers are urgently needed for IDP children affected by the AA-MAF conflict. As of 15 January, only around 145,200 of over 534,700 students reportedly attending schools had registered for the exams, revealing a significant education gap. This is attributed to the ongoing conflict that has resulted in inadequate infrastructure and lack of a protected learning environment and resources.
- In the Northwest, Southeast, and Northeast, common challenges include:
  - Difficulty transporting education supplies to project areas due to increased restrictions and checkpoints.
  - Frequent roadblocks, movement restriction and lack of travel approvals impacting access to targeted locations.
  - Limited communication due to restricted internet access, hindering information exchange and coordination efforts.
- In Rakhine, the following gaps and constraints were identified:
  - The breakdown of internet and telecommunication services is challenging the monitoring and assessment of the humanitarian situation.
  - The denial of access to education is disproportionately affecting children residing in active conflict zones.
  - Power cuts in several areas (including Kyaukpyu, Ramree, Mrauk-U, Kyauktaw, Minbya and Pauktaw, and Paletwa in Chin) are affecting students' and teachers' access to information needed for learning and teaching activities.



## Food Security

### Needs

- In 2024, 12.9 million people are in need of food assistance.
- In the Northeast, more than 3,300 newly displaced people in Kachin need emergency food assistance.
- In the Northwest, partners identified the following needs:
  - In Sagaing, food and other essential relief items are needed for more than 55,000 IDPs in numerous townships, including Indaw, Katha, Mawleik, Myaung, Tamu, Tigyaing, Ye-U and Yinmarbin. In addition, partners anticipate food scarcity in Indaw, Katha and Wuntho townships, affecting nearly 1,000 IDPs from April.
  - In Magway, there is an urgent need for food, health support and other relief items for more than 15,000 IDPs in Pakokku Township.
- In Rakhine, food has been scarce with roads and waterways blocked, lack of supplies in markets and increasing prices. All displaced and affected people need food assistance, which is leading people to resort to livelihood coping strategies. These strategies include spending capital for food, acquiring food on credit or through borrowing, and reducing other expenditures.

### Response

- In 2024, the Cluster plans to reach 2.3 million people with food assistance.
- In Bago, partners provided two weeks' worth of cash-for-food assistance to 2,700 households in Gyobingauk, Kyauktaga, Okpho, Minhla, Nattalin, Nyaunglebin, Shwegyin and Zigon townships. Food assistance (rice, oil, salt and noodles) was provided to 11 households in Taungoo Township.
- In Kayah and southern Shan, partners provided both cash and cash-for-food assistance to nearly 5,800 displaced people in Demoso, Hpruso, Loikaw and Pekon townships.
- In Mon, partners provided emergency food assistance to more than 360 displaced households in Bilin, Kyaikhto, Thaton and Ye townships. Another 80 displaced households received home gardening and farming training, along with seed packages and one chicken per household.
- In Kayin, partners provided two weeks cash and food assistance to more than 1,000 displaced households in Kawkareik, Kyainseikgyi and Thandaunggyi townships. An assessment is ongoing in Kawkareik and Kyainseikgyi townships that will inform cash-for-food support to 10,000 IDPs.
- In Tanintharyi, distributions are underway of one month of food assistance for more than 1,700 displaced households in Myeik and Palaw townships.
- In the Northwest, partners provided food and cash assistance to nearly 11,000 IDPs in Myaing, Pakokku, Pauk, Seikphyu and Yesagyo townships in Magway; cash assistance to more than 6,400 IDPs in Indaw, Katha, Tamu, Tigyaing and Wuntho townships in Sagaing; and cash-for-food assistance to more than 12,000 IDPs in Falam, Hakha, Kanpetlet and Matupi townships in Chin.
- In Rakhine, partners continue to respond in accessible areas of towns. Focus has been placed on providing cash assistance for agricultural and livestock support, including agriculture inputs. A cash-for-food assistance initiative is underway for new IDPs in northern Rakhine, as well as distribution of cash to regular beneficiaries in Sittwe Township. In addition, food assistance was provided to 43 injured civilians in Buthidaung Township.

### Gaps & Constraints

- In 2024, the Food Security Cluster requires \$289 million for emergency life-saving food, agriculture, and livelihood assistance.
- Funding shortages, access constraints and the ongoing conflict are major challenges for Cluster partners.
- In the Southeast, access to the Shan-Kayah border (particularly Demoso, Hpruso and Pekon townships) has been an obstacle.
- In the Northwest, funding shortages, increased fuel prices and security concerns pose significant challenges.
- In Rakhine, ongoing fighting, access constraints, and supply chain disruptions are hindering humanitarian response efforts.

## Health

### Needs

- In 2024, 12.1 million people (909,000 children, 1.4 million women and girls, and 372,000 persons with disabilities) are in need of health assistance.
- In Rakhine and southern Chin:
  - \$800,000 is immediately needed to deliver ongoing lifesaving health services for displaced and Rohingya people in Rakhine.
  - There is a need for 200 medicine kits and supplies for community healthcare workers.

- Nationwide, the immediate provision of an additional 175 mobile clinics is critically needed including 11 in Rakhine and southern Chin, 34 in the Northeast, 63 in the Northwest, and 67 in the Southeast.
- In northern Shan:
  - Lifesaving health services, including for treatment of non-communicable diseases, pregnant women, and children under five, are required in conflict-affected villages surrounding Lashio.
  - Malaria medicine and diagnostics are urgently needed in Hopang where more than a thousand positive malaria cases have been detected and where there has been no access to the necessary medicines and diagnostics since 2023.
  - Cash assistance is required to cover essential healthcare services for pregnant and post-partum women who cannot afford out-of-pocket healthcare costs in Mongyai.
- In southern Shan:
  - There is an urgent need for water, sanitation and medicine in IDP sites in Pekon.
  - Lifesaving health services, including for treatment of non-communicable diseases, nutrition, pregnant women and children under five are urgently needed for IDPs (including those newly displaced) in conflict-affected southern Shan and Kayah.
- There is a critical need for mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) for both field staff and conflict-affected communities.

## Response

- Countrywide, the Cluster plans to reach 2.7 million people with health services in 2024.
- Partners have recorded 15,135 health-related activities across 7 states and regions including Rakhine, Kachin and northern Shan. These include 4,254 awareness sessions, 3,996 primary healthcare consultations, 3,040 instances of basic psychological support, and 2,122 malaria consultations. A total of 358 people received financial aid for referrals.
- In northern Shan, there were 14 health education sessions, 2 mobile clinics and daily fixed clinic operations in Lashio.
- In Kayah, 308 children under five received fortified supplementary ration support. Nine patients were referred for further assistance.
- In southern Shan:
  - Some 26 health education sessions were conducted and 13 mobile clinics operated.
  - Health assistance was extended to 13 villages across 2 townships.
  - Approximately 90 pregnant women requiring emergency obstetric care and children under 5 requiring essential childcare received financial support for transportation and meals after being referred to specialized care in Pinlaung, Nyaungshwe, Hsihseng and Taunggyi public hospitals.
  - Cash assistance for fuel costs was provided to six civil society organisations (CSOs) assisting with patient referrals and ambulance services.

## Gaps & Constraints

- Despite continuous expansion in operations and in the number of people reached each year, health partners are facing significant challenges in delivering comprehensive and adequate quality care in many parts of the country since the military takeover, stemming from legal, administrative and security constraints.
- Health partners in many conflict areas countrywide have not received travel authorizations since the clashes intensified last October, posing significant challenges to all ongoing operations.
- Vulnerable populations, including those with chronic illnesses, hepatitis, HIV, TB, pregnant women, and children under five, are at risk of not receiving follow-up care in conflict areas.
- In Rakhine (where health operations remain essentially paused since 13 November 2023):
  - Conflict intensification led to the suspension of several health activities in public and private facilities in areas of northern and central Rakhine.
  - The electricity supply has been cut off in northern Rakhine, resulting in a sharp increase in fuel needs, particularly affecting hospitals.
- In northern Shan, despite the partial resumption of activities, health partners are encountering considerable operational constraints due to heightened security impediments.
- Conflict areas are suffering from a critical shortage of lifesaving medicine and medical supplies with uneven availability in different parts of the country. This issue is heightened particularly for HIV, TB and malaria programmes.
- Despite surging needs, the 2023 humanitarian health response was only funded at 30 per cent. An immediate injection of funds is critically needed to sustain the health response in 2024 with health partners requesting \$130 million to support their activities this year.


**Nutrition**
**Needs**

- In 2024, 2.2 million people (474,000 children, 378,000 women and girls and 79,000 persons with disabilities) are in need of nutrition assistance.
- According to the Myanmar Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan (HNRP) for 2024, an estimated 17,000 cartons of ready-to-use therapeutic food (RUTF) are needed for the lifesaving treatment of 17,897 cases of severe acute malnutrition (SAM) throughout the year. Additionally, 40,000 cartons of ready-to-use supplementary food (RUSF) for moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) are needed for 66,428 cases in 2024. For 2024, the approximate requirement for SAM treatment is \$4 million and MAM treatment is \$5 million.
- In Rakhine:
  - Approximately 2,044 cartons of RUTF are needed for the lifesaving treatment of around 972 children with SAM until April 2024. Travel authorization is urgently needed for the transportation of 1,008 cartons of RUSF for MAM treatment of 1,260 children in Pauktaw, Kyauktaw, Mrauk-U, Minbya, Kyaukpyu, Rathedaung, Buthidaung and Maungdaw townships.
  - Infant and young child feeding in emergencies (IYCF-E) training is needed to strengthen the capacity of 30 field-based staff from all sub-national nutrition clusters.
  - MHPSS trainings need to be provided to 25 Rakhine nutrition cluster members to provide psychosocial support to mothers and caregivers during IYCF counselling sessions.

**Response**

- Countrywide, the Cluster plans to reach 600,000 people with nutrition services in 2024.
- More than 25 cluster partners took part in an in-person Nutrition Cluster emergency response preparedness (ERP) and operational workplan workshop in Yangon.
- In Rakhine:
  - Some 22,685 children aged 6-59 months were screened through mid-upper arm circumference (MUAC) assessments and acute malnutrition cases were referred for treatment in 6 townships.
  - Partners provided timely nutrition services to 24 newly admitted SAM cases, 425 existing SAM cases and 261 existing MAM cases (6-59 months) in 6 townships.
  - Some 2,006 pregnant and lactating women (PLW) received IYCF counselling services in 6 townships.
- In Magway, 50 IYCF flipcharts, 50 registration books, 250 nutrition bowls, 200 vinyls, 200 posters and 1,000 pamphlets were distributed to 4 organizations for nutrition promotion.

**Gaps & Constraints**

- In 2024, the nutrition cluster requires \$58 million to provide health services to needy people across the country.
- Major constraints in conflict-affected areas include limited access, transportation challenges for delivering supplies, and unreliable internet and phone connections. This is particularly the case in Rakhine, Sagaing, Magway, Chin, Kachin, and northern Shan.
- Shortages of nutrition therapeutic supplies and supplements are threatening programme continuity across many states and regions.
- The non-issuance of travel authorizations and security concerns during transportation are affecting programme quality, causing delays and disruptions that risk increased morbidity and mortality from acute malnutrition and other causes.
- Cash-based interventions could improve access to nutrition services, but partners face significant obstacles due to cash shortages, high service provider fees, and risky cash movements through checkpoints and other impediments.
- By the end of March 2024, it is expected that half of all Nutrition Cluster partners will be facing severe funding gaps affecting their ability to implement nutrition activities. This may lead to the termination of projects for three of the five partners in Chin, two of the five partners in Sagaing and three of the five partners in Magway.


**Protection**
**Needs**

- In 2024, 12.2 million people (1 million children, 1.6 million women and girls and 382,000 persons with disabilities) are in need of protection assistance.
- In conflict areas, contamination with landmines and other explosive ordnance remains a concerning trend in 2024 with the highest number of incidents ever recorded in 2023. A significant increase in the number of victims has been reported in both Rakhine and Shan due to the escalation of conflict. There are reports of new layers of landmines being laid in these states.



- Child Protection concerns continue countrywide with children disproportionately impacted by the escalation of conflict. This includes exposure to physical and emotional violence, trafficking and exploitation, child labour, illegal detention, an increase in unaccompanied and separated children, and early marriage.
- In the Southeast:
  - In southern Shan and Kayah, the escalation of clashes in and around Hsihseng Township has caused the displacement of at least 65,000 people since 22 January, with the exact number difficult to confirm due to communications disruptions. These IDPs are in urgent need of transportation cost support and other essential humanitarian assistance. There are reports of protection needs among women, girls and other persons with specific needs before and during their movement.
  - There is need for dignity kits for women and girls due to armed clashes in Taungoo Township in eastern Bago, Kawkareik Township in Kayin and Kyaikmaraw Township in Mon. Gender-based violence (GBV) related risks for women and girls are a main concern, despite GBV cases being underreported. Access to GBV services is a challenge due to mobile network access and transportation barriers.
  - Ongoing forced recruitment disrupted the operation of women's shelters in Taungoo.
- In the Northwest, immediate action is required to address the pressing humanitarian needs of nearly 1.4 million displaced people. This includes delivering urgent humanitarian assistance, implementing enhanced protection measures to mitigate against violence and insecurity, and facilitating improved access for the transportation of essential items, including humanitarian supplies.
- In Rakhine:
  - Landmines and other explosive ordnance continue to pose significant risks in conflict-affected townships.
  - Rohingya and Kaman people in villages and displacement sites continue to be caught between parties to the conflict and are facing severe movement restrictions, rising commodity prices and reduced access to livelihoods and healthcare. They are also at increasing risk from forced recruitment.
  - There are reports of civilian casualties, arrests and detentions for perceived affiliation with parties to the conflict, forced recruitment into armed groups, human trafficking and irregular movements to neighbouring countries.
  - Access to markets and fuel shortages are adding further pressure to stressed households.
  - Loss of important documentation (such as for housing, land and property) is a key dimension of displacement with long-term implications, affecting all communities.

## Response

- In 2024, the Cluster plans to reach 3 million people, utilizing a prioritized approach based on a thorough review of data.
- In the Northeast, cluster partners jointly conducted a rapid protection assessment in 37 displacement sites (28 sites in northern Shan and 9 sites in Kachin) in January, covering about 4,700 IDPs. As part of the follow-up action, a protection orientation workshop was held with communities in early February in Kachin.
- In the Southeast:
  - More than 80 rapid protection assessments were conducted in eastern Bago, Kayah, Kayin, Mon, southern Shan and Tanintharyi.
  - Post distribution monitoring missions to look at assistance to 72 persons with specific needs (PSN) were carried out in eastern Bago, Kayin, Mon and Tanintharyi.
  - Eight legal consultations were conducted in Kayin and southern Shan.
  - Multi-purpose cash assistance was provided to more than 1,600 households with PSNs in Kayah and southern Shan.
  - More than 1,200 dignity kits, nearly 200 clean delivery kits and awareness messages were distributed to displaced and affected women and girls, including expectant mothers, in southern Shan and Mon.
  - A total of 650 pamphlets were distributed for awareness on sexual and reproductive health and rights, GBV and MHPSS in Mon.
- In Rakhine, protection partners continue to carry out remote monitoring of protection and human rights violations with an aim of obtaining real-time understanding of the current situation and informing the overall humanitarian response, as well as advocacy. The Cluster has developed safety messages on civil documentation and documents related to housing, land, and property. Guidance on protecting these documents in the context of Rakhine has also been provided.
- In the Northwest, cluster members continue to provide protection assistance to injured people and their families.

## Gaps & Constraints

- In 2024, the Cluster requires \$161 million to provide protection assistance to targeted people.

- In the Northeast, road closures and travel restrictions have impacted on humanitarian access to newly displaced people and affected communities. Lack of sufficient financial and human resources for cluster partners remains an obstacle to providing specialized support to vulnerable groups.
- In Rakhine, ongoing armed conflict has significantly hampered the humanitarian and protection environment, leading to food insecurity and shortages of basic commodities, particularly affecting low-income and displaced families. The breakdown of internet and telecommunications services poses major challenges in monitoring and assessing the humanitarian situation. Access to essential services, including health, livelihood and education is denied, greatly affecting pregnant women, elderly people, persons with disabilities, and children.
- In the Northwest, the persistent displacement crisis affecting more than a million people is marked by scarce resources and limited capacity for humanitarian response activities. Urgent and comprehensive action is required to address severe protection issues, including air strikes, mine/explosive ordnance contamination and armed clashes. Compounded by movement restrictions, shrinking humanitarian space, and access limitations, there are major barriers to delivering vital aid and protection services in the increasingly complex operating environment.
- In the Southeast, ongoing conflict, landmine contamination, increasing checkpoints, safety and security issues for local partners, movement restrictions and funding shortages persist across states and regions. Due to limited access, activities have been challenging to carry out, including monitoring and reporting grave violations, child protection activities, support to survivors of landmine incidents, and explosive ordnance risk education.

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

### Needs

- In 2024, 4.3 million people (468,000 children and 878,000 adults including women, girls and persons with disabilities) are in need of Shelter/NFI/CCCM assistance.
- In the Northeast, partners identified approximately 900 households (6,840 people) that are newly displaced and in need of emergency shelter, NFIs and food assistance in Hpakant, Myitkyina, Tanai and Waingmaw townships in Kachin and Kutkai, Lashio, Mongmit and Namhkan townships in northern Shan. In addition, 19 shelter units and CCCM capacity is needed for a camp transitioning to a “protracted status” camp in Myitkyina Township.
- In the Southeast:
  - In Kayin, about 2,400 people displaced from Kawkareik to Hpa-an township need shelter, winter clothes and blankets.
  - In Kayah and southern Shan, some 2,000 new IDPs in western Demoso Township and 2,500 new IDPs in Hsihseng Township need emergency shelter and essential relief items.
  - In Tanintharyi, some 20 displaced families from Launglon Township lost their homes due to arson attacks and need shelter and NFI assistance.
- In the Northwest, cluster partners identified an estimated 6,000 people newly displaced in Tidim Township in Chin, Gangaw and Seikphyu townships in Magway, and Tabayin Township in Sagaing that need emergency shelter and essential relief items, including kitchen sets, blankets, mosquito nets and tarpaulins. In Sagaing, a recent rapid needs analysis indicated that nearly 4,200 people need shelter assistance, kitchen sets, as well as hygiene and dignity kits in Pale, Salingyi and Tabayin townships.
- In Rakhine, the Cluster identified more than 139,000 people that have been newly displaced since the resumption of armed conflict on 13 November. The majority of these displaced families are in rural areas and need shelter assistance and essential relief items.

### Response

- In 2024, the Cluster aims to assist 1.3 million people, including IDPs; returned, resettled, and locally integrated IDPs; stateless persons; and other crisis-affected people with Shelter/NFI/CCCM needs.
- In the Northeast, 2,500 displaced people in Hpakant, Myitkyina and Waingmaw townships in Kachin received essential relief items. Support is also underway for 25 transitional shelters for nearly 70 displaced families who are integrated into the local community in Myitkyina Township.
- In the Southeast, more than 1,200 displaced and affected families (about 5,000 people) in Kyaikmaraw Township, Mon and Hlaingbwe Township in Kayin received essential relief items. A displacement site received 260 roofing sheets for 70 IDPs in Nyaungshwe Township in southern Shan. Additionally, 200 displaced and affected families in Demoso and Hpruso townships in Kayah received cash for work assistance and local roofing/walling sheets made of thatch and leaves.
- In the Northwest, dignity kits and cash (including for shelter kits and other essential relief items) are being distributed to nearly 4,000 displaced people in Gangaw, Myaing, Pakokku, Pauk and Tilin townships in Magway.

- In Rakhine, nearly 1,400 displaced and affected families received essential relief items. Another 300 families received shelter assistance.

### Gaps & Constraints

- In 2024, the Cluster requires \$149 million for provision of shelter materials and NFIs, as well as strengthening settlement monitoring, service coordination, and camp infrastructure maintenance through camp management.
- Countrywide, humanitarian access continues to be hindered by travel restrictions, roadblocks, drastic increases in transportation costs, tightened security controls, and ongoing armed clashes. Increased commodity prices and loss of employment for casual labourers persists. Humanitarian organizations in the field are facing challenges with cash withdrawals from banks, limited cash availability with local financial service providers, and increased scrutiny at checkpoints. The destruction of major town centers has caused serious cuts to commodity flows and basic services.
- In the Northeast, the collapse of bamboo bridges, as well as roadblocks are major barriers for the transportation of shelter and NFIs in Kutkai and Namhkan townships in northern Shan. A needs assessment was suspended due to communication issues. Funding remains one of the major gaps in the Northeast, with a Camp Analysis Report from December 2023 indicating that only 24 per cent of needs were addressed.
- In the Southeast, the ongoing security situation, proliferation of checkpoints and roadblocks, severely limited communications, and travel restrictions have impeded access in many areas of eastern Bago, Kayah, Kayin, southern Shan, Mon, and Tanintharyi. Since 11 November, destruction in Loikaw, Hsihseng and Pekon towns has halted commodity flows to the IDP communities, affecting more than 200,000 IDPs in Kayah and southern Shan.
- In the Northwest, ongoing armed clashes, recurring airstrikes, destruction of civilian properties, and military operations continue to be primary triggers for repeated displacement and civilian casualties, particularly in Sagaing.
- In Rakhine, the blockage of all major transport routes from Yangon into the state continues to prevent the replenishment of shelter and NFI stockpiles. Telecommunications and internet access have been cut or limited since 18 January in many locations, affecting all levels of communication between humanitarian service providers. The shortage of goods, including food, medicine and basic household items, as well as soaring market prices are severely affecting displaced and affected people.

## Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

### Needs

- In 2024, 5.6 million people (566,000 children and 1.1 million adults including women and girls and persons with disabilities) are in need of WASH assistance.
- In the Northeast, more than 1,400 IDPs in 15 sites in Mansi Township in Kachin who have been displaced from Namhkan Township in northern Shan need hygiene items, latrines, sanitation facilities and water infrastructure for drinking.
- In the Northwest, many people were forced to leave their homes in Mandalay due to intense fighting in Mogoke and Madaya townships and have WASH needs. Expansion of the humanitarian WASH response into affected parts of Mandalay is being explored.
- In the Southeast, cluster partners indicated that hygiene kits, water purification tablets and water buckets are urgently needed for about 37,000 displaced people in eastern and western Bago, Kayin, Mon, southern Shan, and Tanintharyi.
- In Rakhine, more than 326,000 IDPs, both new and protracted, need humanitarian assistance including WASH support and services since all humanitarian access has been blocked since 13 November 2023. There are grave concerns about water availability in many sites heading into the dry season with some locations usually dependent on water trucking/boating that is currently not possible.

### Response

- In 2024, the Cluster plans to reach 1.7 million people with WASH assistance.
- In the Northeast, cluster partners provided WASH assistance to approximately 7,700 IDPs in Hsipaw, Lashio, Namhsan and Namtu townships in northern Shan in January. This includes the provision of 12 emergency latrines and essential supplies, 800 dignity and hygiene kits, 410 water containers, 5 drums of bleach powder and water purification materials.
- In the Southeast, partners provided 3,800 displaced and affected households in Kawkareik Township in Kayin, with hygiene items and 600 displaced households in Mon State with plastic buckets, water purification sachets, hygiene kits and awareness sessions.

### Gaps & Constraints

- In 2024, the Cluster needs \$106 million to provide quality and standards of water and sanitation services as well as ensuring good hygiene practice for the people in need.
- WASH response activities have been challenged by ongoing armed clashes, restrictions on movement and transportation of supplies, inflation, limited availability of supplies in local markets, and poor access to telecommunication and internet services.

For further information, please contact:

**Sajjad Mohammad Sajid**, Head of Office, [sajid@un.org](mailto:sajid@un.org)

**Danielle Parry**, Deputy Head of Office, [parryd@un.org](mailto:parryd@un.org), +95 9797002713 (Phone/Signal)

**Christina Powell**, Humanitarian Affairs Officer, [powell4@un.org](mailto:powell4@un.org), +34 644 39 3247 (Signal)

For more information, please visit: <https://www.facebook.com/OCHAMyanmar>; <https://twitter.com/ochamyanmar>; or [Subscribe](#)