



Flooding in Southern Shan (©UNICEF Taunggyi Field Office/2024)

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## Myanmar Flood Flash Update No.1

Date: 18 September 2024

### Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

The consequences of Typhoon Yagi have caused heavy rains, leading to severe flooding, landslides and damage in multiple parts of Myanmar. The continuous flooding has impacted at least 69 townships<sup>1</sup> in 9 states and regions, including Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay, Magway, Kayah, Bago, Mon, Kayin and eastern and southern Shan. Initial estimates indicate that at least 631,000 people are affected.<sup>2</sup> The verification of affected populations remains challenging as the situation is still evolving. Affected areas are still hard to reach due to damaged roads and widespread disruptions to telecommunications and electricity.

The floods have resulted in casualties, displaced families, damaged homes, and have destroyed livelihoods and critical infrastructure, including health facilities, schools, and major highways and bridges. Affected areas include camps for displaced people, including children, who were already struggling with limited services due to ongoing conflict. As per state-run media reports, at least 226 people have been killed due to the current flooding. More than 2,000 houses are completely destroyed, over 10,000 schools are damaged. Crop cultivation have been severely affected in 84 townships and 643,081 acres of paddy and other crops have been impacted.<sup>3</sup>

- In the southeast, Mon, Kayin, Kayah, Tanintharyi are affected by heavy rain, landslides and flash flooding. In Kayin, over 100,000 people are reportedly affected, and the situation is likely to worsen if the flooding continues for an extended period. In Kayah state, floods and landslides have affected Hpruso, Loikaw, Demoso, and Shadaw townships, with villages, internally displaced person (IDP) camps, and farmlands flooded.
- In Southern Shan, 14 townships have been affected by heavy rain and flooding, including widespread impact in Nyaungshwe, Kalaw, Hsihseng, Lawksawk, Pinlaung, and Shwenyaung. Most parts of Nyaungshwe are reported to have been submerged, impacting an estimated 74,000 people including IDPs. Tarchileik, Mangset and nearby townships are also affected in Eastern Shan.
- In Taungoo township in the Bago Region, more than 30 villages were completely submerged after the Sittaung River breached its flood barriers, displacing hundreds of residents.
- Partners estimate that over 386,000 people across 10 townships in Mandalay and around 7,000 people from Magway have been affected. Over 100 acres of farmland have been damaged in Mandalay regions, and three villages were swept away,
- More than 60,000 people in four townships are reportedly affected in Nay Pyi Taw as per state-run media.

Across all affected areas, critical needs include access to safe drinking water, hygiene items, medicine, food, shelter, and humanitarian cash assistance. In the time of natural disasters, children are among the worst affected and their safety, well-being, and access to basic services are at grave risk. Acute watery diarrhoea,

<sup>1</sup> Global New Light of Myanmar, September 17, 2024, page 5, "National Disaster Management Committee holds 2.2024 meeting".

<sup>2</sup> United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, Myanmar Flood Situation Report, UNOCHA, 16 September 2024.

<sup>3</sup> Global New Light of Myanmar, September 17, 2024, page 11, "Severe flooding nationwide: Over 200 dead, thousands displaced".

dengue fever, malaria, cholera and measles are already a threat to children in Myanmar. Ongoing flooding is likely to worsen the situation of water-borne diseases. Numerous schools were forced to close or are being used as shelters, affecting the access to education for thousands of children. The flooding has caused emotional and psychological stress for children and their caregivers, affecting their wellbeing. Family separation and unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) in both Magway and Mandalay have been reported through social media, however the data on number of affected individuals is still unknown. There is growing concern that flooding in areas contaminated with explosive ordnance may have caused landmines to shift, potentially contaminating previously safe areas.

## UNICEF Response

UNICEF teams are on the ground, working closely with UN agencies, clusters, partners and stakeholders to assess the situation and to mobilize immediate response.

- **WASH:** UNICEF is working with partners to distribute soap, hygiene kits and critical WASH items including water treatment chemicals and buckets for the safe storage and treatment of water at household level. UNICEF already has some supplies pre-positioned at the sub-national warehouses (including Shan with contingency stock for 23,000 people and Mandalay targeting 25,000 households) that are being distributed through partners on a needs-basis. In Bago east, UNICEF is working with partners to distribute more than 4,000 hygiene kits (benefitting approximately 22,000 people) and WASH items (including water purification tablets, jerry can, hygiene kits, tarpaulin and ropes) by the end of this week. Additional supplies are being provided from Yangon, access permitting. Given the significant funding challenges and associated supply shortages, the supplies will need to be provided on a prioritized basis.
- **Health and Nutrition:** UNICEF in collaboration with partners is distributing newborn kits to cover the needs of pregnant women and one-month old babies. In Taungoo and Thandaunggyi townships in Bago east, UNICEF has distributed 300 newborn kits. Additional critical supplies for distribution includes IEHK kits, medicine, 500 Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) bowls and RUTF for the treatment of severe wasting. Capacity strengthening on screening, danger signs and referral for health and nutrition services will also be undertaken to improve the quality of services being provided.
- **Child Protection:** Child Protection kits are being distributed through partners, including in Bago east where 103 kits were already distributed benefitting 391 children and an additional 420 kits are planned to be distributed this week. Key messages on child protection, explosive ordnance risk education (EORE) and protection against sexual exploitation and abuse by aid workers (PSEA) are also being delivered. Provision of psychosocial services and case management (including for separated and unaccompanied children) remains a priority. This also includes ongoing collaboration with religious leaders for conducting psychosocial activities for parents and caregivers in IDP camps.
- **Education:** The devastating floods have disrupted children's learning and overall well-being. Immediate intervention is critical to sustain and restore their learning. UNICEF, in collaboration with partners, is mobilizing resources to provide urgent mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) and disaster risk reduction (DRR) training for educators. This will empower them to offer necessary MHPSS services to affected children. There are also plans to distribute essential teaching and learning materials (TLM), including school, early childhood development (ECD) and recreational kits, to create conducive and playful learning environments. Our efforts extend to critical light repairs, clean-up and sanitization of damaged learning facilities, setting-up temporary safe learning spaces where needed, and improving WASH facilities as appropriate.
- **Humanitarian Cash Assistance:** UNICEF is planning, in collaboration with local partners and stakeholders, to provide humanitarian cash assistance to vulnerable families affected by the floods. This support is intended to help families meet their immediate basic needs—such as

purchasing food, water, and other essentials—in areas where markets are functioning, and as part of the recovery phase. By offering cash assistance, UNICEF aims to empower families to make informed decisions that best address their unique circumstances. However, additional funding is needed to scale up this component of UNICEF’s response strategy.

- **Social and Behavior Change:** UNICEF in collaboration with Cherry FM radio station started broadcasting life-saving messages on flood response, informing the affected population what actions to follow to stay safe during flooding and after floods. The radio station is airing Public Service Announcements at least 10 times per day with intervals since 15 September. Cherry FM has a wide coverage area which includes 10 states/regions and Naypyitaw area.

## Humanitarian Leadership and Coordination

OCHA is coordinating the overall humanitarian response with all clusters, through the coordination mechanisms established at the national level as well as in sub national levels. Joint rapid need assessment and response is being undertaken with other UN agencies, and other partners in the most-affected areas.

UNICEF will continue to provide leadership for WASH cluster, Nutrition Cluster, Child Protection and Mine Action Areas of Responsibility (AoRs), and co leading the Education Cluster (with Save the Children). Cluster discussions at national and sub-national level is ongoing to coordinate the response and meet priority needs. There are significant concerns about the lack of humanitarian funding and supply gaps due to multiple competing demands and challenges around access/connectivity.

The WASH cluster is assessing current contingency stocks of the cluster partners to meet the multiple needs across the country. Some cluster partners are also disseminating flood messaging, distributing water purification tablets, and conducting cleaning of water sources.

The Child Protection AoR has already disseminated key messages on flood risk and response to prevent families from being separated and to minimize dangers and injuries due to floods. The CP AoR has also provided guidance on Family Tracing and Reunification (FTR) and is mobilizing partners for FTR and case management, as unaccompanied and separated children are an increasing concern. A short orientation on UASC and FTR in emergencies is being convened online for all AoR partners. Moving forward, the Child Protection AoR is also looking at setting up helpdesks for separated and unaccompanied children along with setting up mobile Child Friendly Spaces, resources permitting.

The Mine Action AoR and its partners have developed Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials to warn communities about the potential mitigation of landmines due to flooding. Typically, landmines get caught in debris carried by floodwaters. As the water recedes, people often return to clear this debris, increasing the risk of accidents. To address this, targeted messaging and materials are being distributed, advising affected populations to exercise caution when clearing debris and to report any suspected landmines they may encounter.

The Education cluster is conducting an assessment of available stock contingency to provide essential educational supplies, including textbooks, stationery, and teaching aids, to affected schools and students through education cluster partners.

The Nutrition Cluster in the Southeast and Rakhine activated the flooding contingency plan and partners have begun cross-sectoral rapid needs assessment amidst access limitations. In the Southeast, partners started responding through distribution of infant and young child feeding (IYCF) bowls and provision of blanket supplementary feeding program (BSFP) support to displaced families, based on the limited funding and stock availability.

**UNICEF Myanmar**

**Press Release:** <https://www.unicef.org/myanmar/press-releases/children-face-heightened-risks-amid-devastating-floods-myanmar>

**Website:** [Flood safety information for parents | UNICEF Myanmar](#)

**Social Media:** <https://www.facebook.com/share/p/ZHr649E2CCf8hHko/>

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