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## Myanmar Flood Flash Update No.4

Date: 7 October 2024

### Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

Across Myanmar, an estimated 1 million people<sup>1</sup> are affected by the ongoing flooding throughout 70 townships in Bago, Kayah, Kayin, Magway, Mandalay, Mon, Nay Pyi Taw, Rakhine, Sagaing, eastern and southern Shan, and Tanintharyi regions/states. The most affected areas are Mandalay Region, southern Shan, eastern Bago, Kayin, Mon, and Nay Pyi Taw.

The flooding and landslides have caused significant damage to homes, household assets, and critical infrastructure, including health facilities, schools, water sources, major highways, bridges, and WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) infrastructure. Livelihoods have been destroyed, forcing many families to evacuate. Communication challenges persist due to flooded roads and downed electric lines. While floodwaters have receded in some areas, ongoing rain and riverine conditions continue to threaten some areas with recurrent flooding and potential river overflows.

Around 480,000 people are affected in Mandalay and Magway regions including Nay Pyi Taw. In Rakhine, more than 40,000 people from villages including IDPs locations in Mrauk U, and Myinbya and Tounangoup townships are affected. In Bago east, more than 180,000 people are affected while in eastern and southern Shan, flooding and landslides have affected over 100,000 people. In Mon and Kayin states, affected figures are over 200,000.

Across all affected areas, critical needs include access to safe drinking water, hygiene items, medicine, food, shelter, and humanitarian cash assistance.

Acute watery diarrhoea, dengue fever, malaria, cholera and measles are already a threat to children in Myanmar. The ongoing flooding is likely to worsen the spread of waterborne diseases and increasing the need to provide urgent health, nutrition and WASH services. Despite ongoing rapid response efforts, delivering essential WASH assistance—such as clean water, sanitation, hygiene supplies, menstrual hygiene management, and shelter—remains a significant challenge. Numerous schools were forced to close or are being used as shelters, affecting the access to education for thousands of children. Child Protection concerns are critical in the aftermath of the floods, with risks such as family separation, psychological distress, exposure to explosive ordnance, and physical dangers, including drowning. Initial assessments indicate that more than 270,000 children and over 180,000 parents and caregivers are in urgent need of child protection services.

### UNICEF Response

#### WASH

UNICEF and its partners have continued to provide life-saving WASH supplies to flood-affected communities in the northwest and southeast. These efforts are supplemented by hygiene promotion messages on handwashing and maintaining environmental cleanliness to prevent disease outbreaks. In Shan, critical WASH supplies were

<sup>1</sup> United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, Myanmar Flood Situation Report 3, 27 September 2024.

distributed to the affected population. UNICEF will further distribute water purification chemicals, water storage containers and soaps to the affected populations in Bago, northwest and southeast.

### **Health and Nutrition:**

UNICEF, in collaboration with partners, is distributing community newborn kits for newborn babies to support essential care of newborns and clean delivery kits were also distributed to ensure safe and clean delivery of pregnant women. Total 750 newborn kits and 670 clean delivery kits being distributed in flood affected area. Basic health care services are being provided to flood-affected communities. UNICEF and its partners supported strengthening of community Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) practice in emergency by providing IYCF counselling services along with distribution of 420 child feeding bowls with posters and multiple micronutrient powders for 350 children aged 6-59 month in flood affected locations.

### **Child Protection**

UNICEF joined the interagency flood response in southern Shan and reached 869 HHs and 4,228 children, adolescents and parents/caregivers. In Southeast (Bago, Kayin and Mon) UNICEF reached a total of 2,227 people including 507 children and adolescents with CP kits; 840 people with awareness raising on key life-saving messages including explosive ordnance risks; 836 people with mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) activities including Child Friendly Space; 1,242 people with GBV risk mitigation; and eight children with case management and referrals to services. UNICEF also disseminated various flyers with flood risks, CP key messages, explosive ordnance risk education (EORE) and prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) messages. UNICEF also coordinated with Child Protection Area of Responsibility (CP AoR) to map out partners' presence and accessibility for flood response.

### **Education**

UNICEF and partners will provide education assistance to the flood affected children in Southern and Eastern Shan, covering 7 districts and 12 townships, prioritizing the immediate teaching and learning material supply distribution. Further, the UNICEF southeast office is preparing to provide over 8,000 children with essential learning packages (ELPs) in the Southeast area through our Education Cluster partners and will be providing 7,000 children and some 5,000 affected children in Tanintharyi region with ELPs. In addition, some 5,000 ELPs are being transported to meet children's learning continuity needs in Mandalay. Meanwhile, UNICEF and partners are engaged in ongoing assessment to better understand the needs of the flood-affected children and adolescents, educators and parents/caregivers to inform the detailed development of our flood response plans. Initial findings have already identified numerous affected schools and the lack of available learning options in the temporary displacement sites, highlighting the need for school sanitation and light repairs and the establishment of temporary learning spaces.

### **Humanitarian Cash Assistance**

UNICEF, in partnership with local organisations and stakeholders, is providing humanitarian cash assistance to 3,250 vulnerable families impacted by the floods, reaching approximately 16,250 individuals across three states and regions: Shan South, Kayah, and Nay Pyi Taw. This support enables families to meet their immediate basic needs—such as purchasing food, water, and other essential items—in areas where markets remain operational, contributing to the recovery phase. By offering cash assistance, UNICEF empowers families to make informed choices that best suit their specific circumstances. However, additional funding is required to expand this critical component of UNICEF's response strategy.

### **Social and Behaviour Change**

SBC continues engaging communities in flood affected areas to promote hygiene and sanitation practices to mitigate the risks of water-borne diseases. About 63,750 people have been reached with integrated package of actionable messages on preventing acute watery diarrhoea, cleanliness to remove stagnant water in surroundings to avoid mosquito breeding and to be alert and recognize signs for landslide and other natural calamities. Community volunteers have also reached out to families to protect children from gender-based violence (GBV) in make-shift shelters. Additional counselling has been provided for families separated due to floods and managing stress after natural disasters. Through social media about 12,162 people (have been reached with life-saving messages on flood response preparedness.

In Shan State, Mandalay and Magway regions, UNICEF is planning to engage communities with focus on maternal, newborn, and child healthcare and emergency preparedness, including protecting children and community from snake bites and waterborne diseases, like acute water diarrhoea, through adaptation of hygiene and safe water practices. The integrated packages include awareness on potential risks of landmines due to the floods.

### Supply and Logistics

The flooding and landslides occurred while the office was already at its peak in responding to acute watery diarrhoea (AWD) outbreaks affecting many parts of the country. The Supply section, in coordination with WASH section, has been delivering essential WASH supplies such as water flocculant disinfectant powder, water filters, water containers, and chlorine powder, to support the affected communities. These efforts are ongoing, and the office is actively replenishing critical supplies through local and offshore sourcing to ensure the sufficient availability of stocks at various levels across the country, especially the affected areas.

## 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 levels are ongoing to coordinate the response and meet priority needs of affected people. There are significant concerns about the lack of humanitarian funding and supply gaps due to multiple competing demands and challenges around access/connectivity.

In response to flooding in Myanmar, the WASH Cluster and partners provided urgent support across Kalaw, the Northwest (NW) region, the Southeast region, and Rakhine State. Despite challenges, WASH Cluster partners continue to expand efforts, ensuring vital WASH services to flood-affected populations.

In Kalaw, 996 households (4,208 individuals) were reached with essential WASH supplies, including 996 hygiene kits, 996 water buckets, 10 water floc boxes, and 50 water purification tablets. Additional items like body soap and child nutrition kits were distributed to vulnerable groups, particularly women and children.

In the NW region, partners identified 234,985 people in Mandalay and Magway in need of WASH assistance. To date, 24,155 individuals have received support, including 12,817 water purification sachets and water trucking to 1,831 households. Plans aim to reach 146,750 more individuals with hygiene kits and water purification supplies, although gaps remain in emergency sanitation services.

In Rakhine State, WASH Cluster reached nearly 17,500 people through dewatering and rehabilitation efforts and planned activities aim to reach 15,000 more individuals.

In Southeast, WASH Cluster partners have reached more than 24,000 people with safe water access through distribution of hygiene kits, tarpaulins, water purification tablets.

The Child Protection AoR continues to support partners with delivering child protection services to the children and caregivers affected by the floods. The AoR has produced a short guidance on child protection response to the floods for all AoR members, outlining priority actions at this stage in the response. Furthermore, the CP AOR conducted an online orientation on Family Tracing and Reunification as well as Unaccompanied and Separated Children with 42 Child Protection AoR participants attending. Partners are distributing child protection kits as well as identification of children for case management where they have access and funds to scale up life-saving activity.

The Mine Action AoR and its partners have been actively distributing Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials to raise awareness among communities about the potential movement of landmines due to flooding. In addition, the Mine Action AoR is conducting an assessment with partners to determine the extent of contamination and gather data on previously reported incidents in flood-affected regions. This assessment will help prioritize our response, ensuring that the most vulnerable populations receive critical support and services first.

The Education cluster is assessing available stock contingency across six key regions to provide essential educational supplies, including textbooks, stationery, and teaching aids, to affected schools and students through education cluster partners. The stock includes a range of items that are critical to ensuring educational continuity and promoting a safe and hygienic learning environment for children and teachers in crisis-affected areas.

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.

For further  
information contact: **Marcoluigi Corsi**  
Representative  
Myanmar Country Office  
Tel: (+95) 9765491680  
Email: [mcorsi@unicef.org](mailto:mcorsi@unicef.org)

**Julia Rees**  
Deputy Representative Programmes  
Myanmar Country Office  
Tel: (+95) 9883768865  
Email: [jrees@unicef.org](mailto:jrees@unicef.org)

**Faika Farzana**  
Emergency Manager  
Myanmar Country Office  
Tel: (+95) 9883768871  
Email: [ffarzana@unicef.org](mailto:ffarzana@unicef.org)