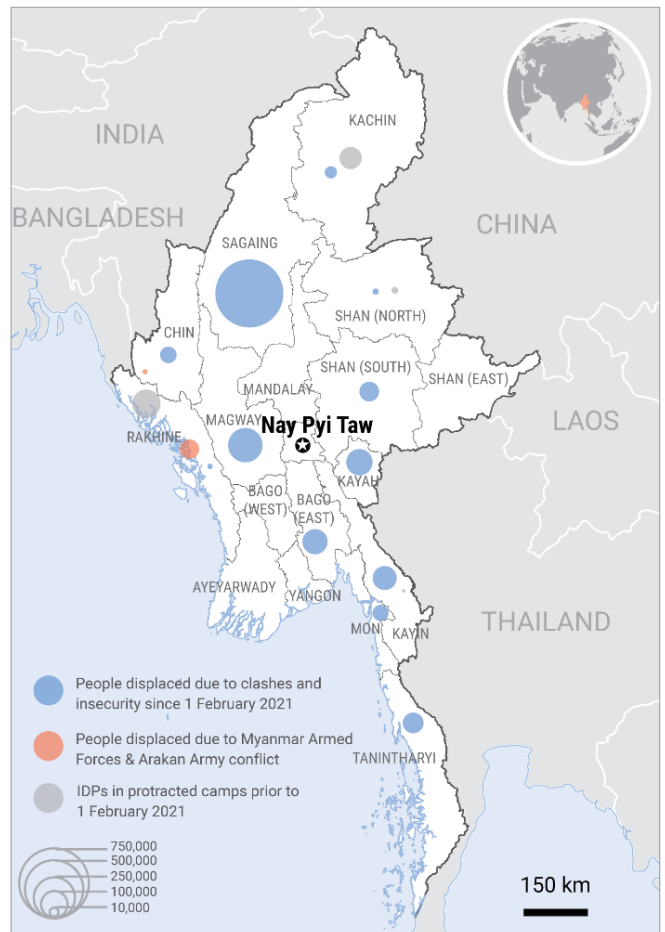


This regular update, covering humanitarian developments up to 25 August, is produced by OCHA Myanmar in collaboration with the Inter-Cluster Coordination Group and UN agencies. Response figures are based on self-reporting by organizations to clusters. The next humanitarian update will be issued in September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

HIGHLIGHTS & KEY MESSAGES

- Ongoing conflict and natural disasters have resulted in new displacement, civilian casualties, and destruction of civilian properties, intensifying the already fragile humanitarian situation in Myanmar.
- More than 1.9 million people are now internally displaced in precarious conditions and requiring lifesaving assistance.
- Heavy monsoon rainfall has triggered flooding in Rakhine and in the Southeast where more than 80,000 people have been affected since early August.
- Transportation and distribution plans for the cyclone response in Rakhine have been approved and some relief items have been distributed. However, the overall humanitarian needs of cyclone-affected communities remain high and more assistance is still needed.
- Humanitarian access restrictions have increased, notably in the Southeast and Kachin, further hindering timely and efficient aid delivery to affected and displaced communities.
- Easing of access restrictions and provision of financial support are imperative for the humanitarian community to address urgent needs,
- Eight months into 2023, the combined [US\\$887 million Humanitarian Response Plan and Cyclone Mocha Flash Appeals](#) remain critically underfunded, with only 25 per cent of the required funding received.
- The Emergency Relief Coordinator, Martin Griffiths, visited Myanmar from 14 to 17 August to raise awareness of the situation in Myanmar and [advocate for both expanded space for humanitarian operations and the removal of bureaucratic obstacles.](#)



KEY FIGURES*

1.9M

Total people currently internally displaced across Myanmar

1.6M

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 2021.¹

*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.

¹ Data for Myanmar (up to 31 July 2023)

SITUATION OVERVIEW

Natural disasters have continued to impact Myanmar adding another challenge on top of active conflict, leading to an increase in displacement and additional hardship for affected people. Simultaneously, bureaucratic, and physical barriers continue to hinder humanitarian partners' access to those in need, often posing safety and security risks for frontline aid workers. In Rakhine, regular humanitarian programming continues but the specific humanitarian cyclone response remains limited in scope. In August, the de facto authorities approved the transportation and distribution plans for cyclone-related assistance to Rakhine that UN agencies and INGOs re-submitted in early July for a second time. Initial distributions of existing relief items in Sittwe to cyclone-affected communities have been approved and food has been distributed to 12 villages during the reporting period with more expected to follow.

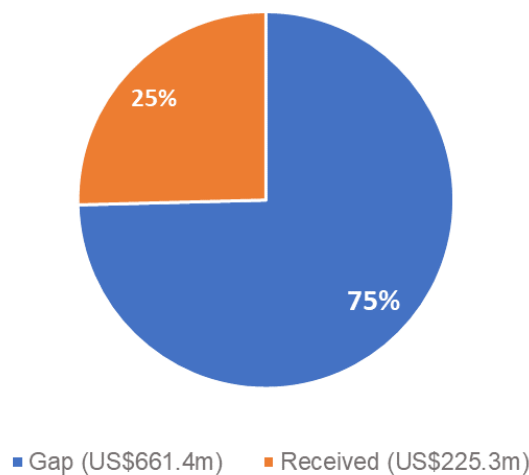
As part of ongoing advocacy at all levels for greater humanitarian access in conflict-affected areas, the Emergency Relief Coordinator, Mr. Martin Griffiths, visited Myanmar from 14 to 17 August and met with various stakeholders in Nay Pyi Taw. During his mission, he also visited Rakhine and met with Rakhine and Rohingya communities affected by both conflict and disaster, emphasizing the importance of placing people at the center of humanitarian action and urging the removal of all access restrictions for humanitarian partners.



OCHA's Humanitarian Chief, Martin Griffiths, during his visit to Rakhine. Credit: UNOCHA/Nvan Zav Htet/2023

Despite the ongoing operational challenges and financial limitations, Myanmar's humanitarian community remains steadfast in its commitment to stay and deliver aid based on need. The [2023 Mid-Year HRP Dashboard \(Jan-Jun 2023\)](#) highlights that more than 1.8 million people have been reached with humanitarian assistance in the first half of the year. However, the [2023 Humanitarian Response Plan \(HRP\)](#) and [Cyclone Mocha Flash Appeal](#) remain severely underfunded at only 25 percent of the total requirement, undermining the provision of comprehensive assistance and adversely impacting vulnerable communities. Urgent and more generous funding is pivotal to alleviate suffering and enhance resilience of the people in the face of this multidimensional crisis.

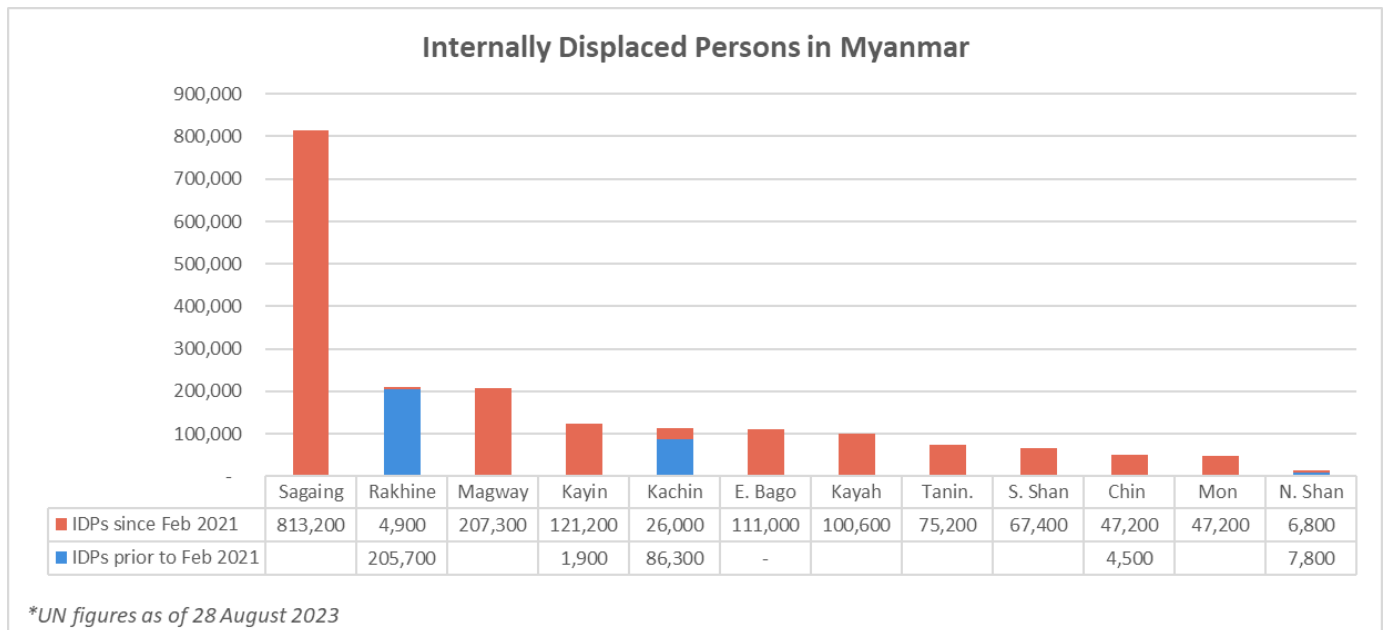
Myanmar Humanitarian Response Plan + Cyclone Mocha Flash Appeal- 2023 (US\$886.7m)*



Conflict and extreme weather continue to fuel humanitarian needs in Myanmar

Ongoing armed conflict intertwined with severe weather is amplifying humanitarian needs throughout Myanmar. Presently, more than 1.9 million men, women and children are grappling with displacement, with a substantial portion – more than 1.6 million – forced from their homes since the 2021 military takeover. Moreover, an estimated 75,000

civilian properties, including houses and religious places, have reportedly been destroyed in conflict-affected states and regions, primarily concentrated in the Northwest, although this data is difficult to verify.



Across the Southeast, conflict continues across almost all states and regions, with new waves of displacement, civilian casualties, arbitrary arrests, and destruction of civilian properties. The number of IDPs in this area has now surpassed half a million, including more than 22,000 people displaced in July across Bago, Tanintharyi, Mon, Kayin, Kayah, and southern Shan. In the same timeframe, conflict and related hostilities reportedly resulted in the deaths of 13 civilians and injury of another 33 people, including children. Concurrently, around 40 homes and barns were reportedly destroyed in the Southeast.

In the Northwest, conflict zones encompassing Chin, Magway, Mandalay, and Sagaing, saw ambushes, clearance operations, use of heavy weaponry, mortar shelling, and airstrikes. Consequently, approximately 32,000 people from various villages in Sagaing's Pale, Tamu, and Tabayin townships, as well as 10,000 people from several villages in Mandalay's Thabeikkyin township, have been displaced since mid-July. Furthermore, nearly 5,800 people from several villages in Kale township in Sagaing, have been displaced to 3 locations due to intense clashes since 11 August. Additional civilian casualties and destruction of homes in Sagaing during this period have also been reported, while heightened security measures at checkpoints increased the risks of extortion and arrest for civilians and humanitarian workers.

In the Northeast, recurrent armed clashes persist in Kachin and northern Shan, causing new displacement in multiple townships. In Kachin, more than 7,000 people from various villages in Bhamo, Shwegu, and Waingmaw townships have been displaced due to artillery shelling and fears over the presence of troops since late July. Northern Shan has witnessed fluid population movements due to sporadic clashes, with instances of temporary displacement and returns across several townships since mid-July.

Against this backdrop, heavy monsoon rains and flooding affected the Southeast, northern Shan, and Rakhine. In the Southeast, thousands of people across 16 townships in Bago, Kayin, Mon, and Tanintharyi have been affected by flooding, with more than 80,000 people moving to temporary shelters and relief sites. In addition, two vital bridges connecting villages to Namhkan township were damaged due to a landslide, temporarily cutting road access. Damage was recored in northern Shan due to heavy rainfall on 9 August, while Kyauktaw, Minbya, Mrauk-U, Maungdaw, and Toungup townships in Rakhine were hit by flash floods on 7 and 8 August, leading to some people temporarily relocating. Initial figures indicate approximately 400 shelters in Kyauktaw and Mrauk-U's displacement sites were damaged, while there was also flood-related damage to paddy fields in Mon, Kayin, and Rakhine.

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

Humanitarian Access: The humanitarian access situation across Myanmar remains challenging, characterized by a combination of obstacles from military operations to administrative restrictions and the physical environment,

including infrastructure deficiencies. Access challenges are being compounded by an increasing number of checkpoints in conflict zones nationwide, coupled with more rigorous scrutiny of goods and people, including humanitarian personnel, and more complex requirements for securing travel authorization.

Administrative restrictions related to the lack of approval for Travel Authorizations (TA) for humanitarian access, were among the most frequently reported impediments across the country, including in Rakhine, Chin, Kayah, Kachin, Northern Shan, and Sagaing. National staff working in Bhamo District in southern Kachin are now being required to receive travel authorizations from the state-level authorities to undertake missions, something that has not previously been required. Such additional measures place an unnecessarily burden on humanitarian partners and are further hindering the already strained response capacity.

Since the introduction of new NGO registration requirements in 2022, travel authorization has also increasingly been linked to having valid registrations and each organization's MOU status. This is resulting in fewer organizations having reliable access. Stringent staff monitoring and prolonged delays at checkpoints — often lasting two to three hours — have caused the cancellation of numerous field missions. In Rakhine, three months following Cyclone Mocha, decision-making for the cyclone response continued to be centralized in Nay Pyi Taw which has significantly delayed disaster response.

The increased intensity of the conflict continues to disrupt humanitarian activities. Armed hostilities have resulted in the blockage of main access roads and denials of passage at leading to the postponement or cancellation of aid missions in various regions or states including Magway, Mandalay, Kachin, Kayah, and Kayin. Notably, Magway experienced shortages in medical supplies, and in Kayah, road closures forced an international organization to relocate their staff. In Kayah, airstrikes reportedly hit medical facilities, significantly impacting the ability of humanitarian partners to offer healthcare services. Similarly, armed confrontations in Magway prompted a local volunteer medical team to abandon their clinic, leaving behind a portion of their medical supplies.

Needs, Response, Gaps and Challenges by Cluster

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

Education in Emergencies

Needs

- In Sagaing, Emergency Learning Package (ELP) kits and home-based learning materials are needed for students in affected areas as there was a temporary closure of community-based schools due to the ongoing conflict in July. Financial support for associated education costs is also needed.
- In Tanintharyi, there is an urgent need to support primary and high school students in Launglon, Thayetchaung and Yebyu, townships. These students have missed formal schooling for two academic years since the 2021 military takeover.
- In Rakhine, there is a need for the provision of WASH services in eight Temporary Learning Centers (TLCs) in Pauktaw and Sittwe townships. In addition, there is a need to furnish learning spaces and provide teaching/learning kits for 720 students and their teachers in IDP camps in Kyauktaw township.
- In Kachin, provision of Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) services is required for students and teachers in Bhamo, Chipwi, Mansi, Momauk, Puta-O and Waingmaw townships.
- In northern Shan, educational supplies are also required for schools and learning centers, especially in hard-to-reach areas within Lashio and Kutkai townships.

Response

- During the first half of 2023, cluster partners reached about 500,000 (34 per cent) of the 1.3 million targeted children in the HRP with education services and support.
- In the Northwest, the following responses were undertaken in July:
 - In Chin, cluster partners renovated 7 community-based schools in Hakha and Thantlang townships and distributed learning kits to 1,479 students (723 boys and 756 girls) in 9 schools across Falam, Kanpetlet, Mindat, Paletwa, and Thantlang townships.

- In Sagaing, partners distributed ELP kits to 5,440 students (2,389 boys and 3,051 girls) in 89 IDP camps and host communities in Kale township.
- In Magway and Sagaing, partners distributed ELP kits and home-based learning materials to 6,650 students (3,201 boys and 3,449 girls) in 10 townships (Myaing, Pakokku, Yesaygo, townships in Magway and Kale, Kanbalu, Kani, Khin-U, Salingyi, Shwebo and Yinmarbin townships in Sagaing).
- In the Southeast, cluster partners provided EiE supplies to 20,557 displaced children (10,277 boys and 10,280 girls) in southern Shan and Kayah in July.
- In Rakhine, the following responses were undertaken during July:
 - In Sittwe township, following advocacy efforts, 16 students (10 boys and 6 girls) who were studying in TLCs in Sittwe, were officially transferred to a formal school and 150 students (57 boys and 93 girls) enrolled in mobile catch-up classes in IDP camps.
 - In Maungdaw township, 677 students (383 boys and 294 girls) were enrolled in mobile catch-up classes, with 45 students (25 boys and 20 girls) receiving student kits.
 - In Minbya and Mrauk-U townships, teaching materials were distributed to 29 volunteer teachers (14 males and 15 females), including 7 teachers with disabilities. MHPSS Training was also provided to 12 caregivers (2 males and 10 females).
- In the Northeast, the following responses were undertaken in July:
 - Partners conducted Education Improvement Plan (EiP) activities for 14 students in Kutkai and Lashio townships.
 - Early Child Care Development (ECCD) support was provided to 173 children (99 boys and 74 girls) and learning/teaching support was provided to 1,696 students (806 boys and 890 girls) in IDP sites and camps in Hseni, Kutkai, Namhkan and Namtu townships in northern Shan and in Mansi township in Kachin.
 - Life skills training was provided to 50 adolescents (13 boys and 37 girls) in 8 townships.
 - Partners organized various education programs for 4,226 IDP children (2,066 boys and 2,160 girls) across 8 townships. These programs included early childhood development, basic education, and life skills for out-of-school adolescents.

Gaps & Constraints

- In the Northwest, partners encountered challenges in transporting EiE supplies to Hakha township in Chin and Kale township in Sagaing due to increasing restrictions and delays at checkpoints. In addition, limited internet access and power challenges continue to hamper communication between partners and virtual capacity building options.
- In the Southeast, the following gaps and constraints were identified:
 - High transport costs, stuck supplies, security concerns for local staff, and increased scrutiny at checkpoints.
 - In Mon, tough road conditions and access restrictions on certain roads are hindering the transportation of infrastructure materials and have stopped activities supporting learning infrastructure in Thaton township.
 - In Kayah, high water levels in the Than Lwin and Thaug Yin rivers posed challenges for residents of Hpa-An and Myawaddy townships.
- In Rakhine, the provision of educational services continues to be affected by pending TAs due to organizations not having valid MoUs/registration.
- In the Northeast, partners are confronted with challenges concerning teacher salaries and obtaining travel approvals to access implementation sites.

Food Security

Needs

- Ongoing conflict has led to food shocks and decreased plantation and production rates, subsequently affecting livelihoods and overall food security.
- Farmers primarily require seeds, access to water, and fertilizers. Livestock producers have documented increased mortality and losses, coupled with a surge in distress sales.

Response

- Since January 2023, the Cluster has reached nearly 1.1 million people across 14 states and regions with food, cash, or agriculture assistance, achieving half (46 per cent) of the HRP annual target.

- In July 2023, cluster partners achieved the following:
 - Reached approximately 696,000 people across various states and regions. This includes supplying cash and rice assistance to more than 29,000 people in locations with functional markets.
 - In Rakhine, 2,050 people in 3 townships received paddy seeds and fertilizer. Additionally, 17,000 people in Buthidaung and Maungdaw townships received cash for food. Home-gardening and income-generating projects for 600 families are in progress.
 - In Kayah and southern Shan, 642 families in Pekon township received multi-purpose cash assistance, and 500 families in Kayah began receiving nutritious food baskets and vegetable gardening support.
 - In the Northwest, 17,000 families across Chin, Magway, and Sagaing received multi-purpose cash assistance, and 226 farmers in Salin township in Magway received paddy seeds.
 - In Ayeyarwady, 120 female-headed households received seeds and cash assistance.

Gaps & Constraints

- Access to remote locations remains a challenge for partners. As a result, 59 per cent of the 228 targeted townships remain unreachable.
- The Food Security Cluster faces severe underfunding at just 21 per cent. This funding deficiency restricts the provision of essential assistance and narrows the breadth of the food security response, notably in areas like agriculture, livelihoods, and food processing and transportation. Cluster support is mainly focused on food assistance. Funds dedicated to livelihoods and agriculture are desperately needed to maximize food assistance effectiveness.



Health

Needs

- In Kachin, there are basic health needs for essential medicines, malaria supplies, comprehensive support for life-saving referrals and medical equipment support for health facilities, where an estimated 5,000 people in hard-to-reach areas of Injangyang township need urgent basic health care.
- In Shan, there is an urgent need for basic medical supplies for 850 new IDP households from Kayah who are currently sheltering in areas along the Thai border. In Pekon township, there is a huge gap in basic medical supplies, primarily for drugs to tackle non-communicable diseases.
- In Rakhine, there is a need to renovate Cyclone-affected clinics in nine areas (six in IDP camps and three in villages) in Sittwe township.
- In Kayin, there is a need for medicines and basic medical supplies, nutrition supplements, and food for about 3,000 IDPs in Hpa Lan Taung area of Hpa-An township. Support for referral services run by local civil society organizations such as ambulance maintenance and fuel costs is also needed in Hlaingbwe and Hpa-An townships.
- In northern Shan, due to ongoing insecurity, there are insufficient health service providers, including medical doctors and mobile clinic nurses for the mobile teams, as well as drugs, such as paracetamol, oral rehydration solution (ORS), zinc, multivitamins, and other basic essential drugs in five townships. There are needs for mobile clinic services and immunization (expanded program on immunization - EPI program) in villages in Mongyai township. There is also a need for mosquito/long lasting insecticidal nets (LLINs) to prevent vector-borne diseases, such as dengue and malaria.
- In Sagaing, there is a need for basic health services for about 30,000 IDPs in Kale township. This includes essential medicines and drugs, LLINs, and some referral support services.

Response

- In the first half of 2023, the Health Cluster partners reached 558,000 people, or roughly 23 per cent of the annual target in the HRP.
- In Kachin, health partners conducted 5,000 health consultations at various locations, including IDP camps, new displacement sites, resettlement sites, and hard-to-reach locations in Bhamo and Shwegu townships in July. In addition, the Early Warning Alert and Response System (EWARS) continued to operate in Hpakant township despite limited internet access.
- In Kayah, health partners implemented the following responses in Demoso, Hpruso and Loikaw in July:
 - Partners distributed 510 dignity kits and conducted 40 health education and awareness raising sessions among affected and displaced people.
 - Partners provided emergency referral support to eight emergency obstetric care cases.
 - Essential medicines were distributed to 30 volunteer health workers for treatment of patients.
- In Kayin, health partners implemented the following responses in July:

- Nearly 500 people received primary health care services through 14 mobile clinics in Hlaingbwe township. In addition, more than 60 pregnant women received emergency obstetric care (EMOC) referral support, and 70 children received early childhood care (ECC) referral support.
- More than 260 people received primary health care services through 10 mobile clinic sessions in Thandaunggyi township.
- In eastern Bago, 150 Clean Delivery Kits (CDKs) were provided to a Traditional Birth Attendance (TBA) clinic in Kyaukkyi township. Capacity building training for local health care service providers was also given to enhance nutrition screening and treatment.
- In Rakhine, more than 18,700 health consultations were provided through partner mobile clinics in 10 townships in northern Rakhine.
- In northern Shan, the following responses were undertaken in July:
 - Five mobile clinics provided 2,640 health consultations in IDP sites in 8 townships. Implementing partners also provided 9 emergency referral services.
 - About 4,000 suspected malaria cases were tested and treated.
- Community-based volunteers continued to distribute mosquito nets and have conducted health awareness sessions for displaced people.

Gaps & Constraints

- In Kachin, due to insecurity and the rainy season, transport remains a major challenge. Landslides and flooding are causing delays in reaching remote areas. In addition, health partners in Bhamo district postponed some activities due to intensified armed clashes in the area.
- In Kayin, mobile clinic routine sessions could not be conducted as planned due to escalating fighting and restrictions on travel in Thandaunggyi township.
- In eastern Bago, transporting goods, medicines and supplies remains a challenge due to ongoing armed conflict and higher transportation costs.
- In Rakhine, assistance to affected people in Buthidaung township is challenging due to a lack of access to remote areas.
- In northern Shan, transport challenges and access limitations due to increased armed clashes are hindering essential health services in remote areas of Mongyai township. In addition, shortage of malaria commodities is reported in some areas of Wa Self-Administered Zone and Kokang Self-Administered Zone. And the Health Cluster is looking into possible solutions.

Nutrition

Needs

- A potential pipeline break is very likely in September for therapeutic nutrition supplies and micronutrients if additional funds are not received and import delays are not resolved.
- A total of \$5.8 million is 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, around 7,500 children could die from malnutrition in Myanmar this year, out of nearly 40,000 severely affected children.
- In Rakhine, there is an urgent need for the replenishment of 1,600 cartons of RUTF for proper treatment of children with severe acute malnutrition (SAM).
- A service gap analysis conducted in Rakhine revealed that 80 per cent of sites for those displaced by past Arakan Army (AA)-MAF conflict (142 out of 178 in Rakhine and at Paletwa in Chin) still lack appropriate nutrition response services for children under five.
- In Kayin, nutrition supplements and micronutrient tablets remain in high demand to support mothers and children, particularly in conflict-affected areas.

Response

- During the first half of 2023, nutrition services and treatment were provided to about 252,000 (43 per cent) of the 590,000 people targeted across the country.
- In Rakhine, the following responses were undertaken in July:
 - Cluster partners strengthened identification and referral of active SAM cases, and the management of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) cases.
 - More than 10,000 children under 5 years and more than 1,200 caregivers received infant and young child feeding (IYCF) education and counselling.
 - Some 52 children with SAM and 224 children with MAM, as well as 8 pregnant and lactating women (PLW) in Kyauktaw, Mrauk-U, Myebon, Pauktaw and Sittwe townships received nutrition treatment.

- Cluster partners provided an individual top-up conditional cash transfer to nearly 500 PLW (81 pregnant women, 403 lactating women and 4 caregivers) between June and July to raise awareness about nutrition.
- The Nutrition Cluster conducted a training of trainers (ToT) on integrated management of acute malnutrition (IMAM) for 28 aid workers (17 male and 11 female).
- In the Northwest, cluster partners undertook the following responses in two townships in Magway, four townships in Chin, and two townships in Sagaing despite the restrictive operating environment:
 - More than 2,800 primary caregivers of children (0-23 months) received individual IYCF counselling.
 - Some 77 boys and girls were newly admitted to Outpatient Therapeutic Programme (OTP). In addition, about 1,100 boys and girls and about 50 PLWs were newly admitted to the Targeted Supplementary Feeding Program (TSFP), while nearly 1,100 boys and girls and more than 60 PLWs were newly enrolled in the Blanket Supplement Food Programme (BSFP).
 - More than 1,050 children (6-59 months) received vitamin A supplementation.
 - Deworming tablets were administered to nearly 800 children (6-59 months) and 3 PLWs.
 - Nearly 9,000 boys and girls (6-59 months) and about 1,400 PLWs were screened with mid-upper arm circumference (MUAC) tests and 3,134 boys and girls (6-59 months) were screened for weight and height.

Gaps & Constraints

- Nationwide, partners continue to face difficulties in transferring and transporting SAM and MAM patients due to increased fuel prices and road blockages.
- In Kachin, except for WFP-supported partners providing BSFP assistance, there is 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 in collaboration with other partners and clusters.
- In Sagaing, there is a lack of specialized nutrition service providers for various reasons, including insufficient capacity and resources, as well as funding. The Nutrition Cluster is exploring various ways to address this issue by encouraging partners to expand interventions into areas of high need and collaborating with health partners already operating in the targeted areas.
- In the Northwest, safety and security concerns continue to affect access to life-saving therapeutic nutrition services.
- In Rakhine, the following gaps and constraints were identified:
 - Delays in issuing TAs continue to limit response coverage. For example, in the Sittwe IDP camps, 11 SAM, and 36 MAM cases did not receive timely nutrition treatment due to late/ non-TA approval in July 2023.
 - 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, according to the 2023 Nutrition HRP targets.

Protection

Needs

- In the Southeast, the following concerns and needs were identified:
 - Civilian casualties due to indiscriminate shelling and landmines, arbitrary arrests and detention, as well as widespread destruction of civilian properties remain major protection concerns.
 - Restrictions on humanitarian access, tight scrutiny of humanitarian actors at checkpoints, roadblocks and road damage due to conflict and natural disasters continue to raise protection concerns and drive humanitarian needs.
- In the Northwest, key drivers of displacement and humanitarian needs include regular airstrikes and armed clashes, killing and maiming of civilians, military raids into villages, use of landmines and explosives remnants of war (ERW), arbitrary arrests and detentions, destruction of civilian properties, including rural health clinics and community schools, movement restrictions, and blockages of supply transport.
- In Rakhine, the following concerns and needs continued to prevail:
 - Humanitarian needs continue to increase in the aftermath of the cyclone and have been further exacerbated because of limited access and monsoon rains.
 - Increasing prices for basic food items have negatively affected IDPs living in camps and displacement sites, with many families resorting to eating just one meal per day or feeding only their children in order to survive.
 - Security concerns are growing over recent tensions and skirmishes between the AA and several separate armed groups including the MAF, Arakan Liberation Army (ALP/ALA), and Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA).

- armed groups and between Rohingya and Rakhine communities. There has been an increase in reports of arbitrary arrests and detentions in Kyaukpyu, Ramree, Thandwe and Toungup townships.
- Movement restrictions on Rohingya and IDP communities have been reported in Kyauktaw and Kyaukpyu townships, adversely affecting their access to services. Incidents of forced labour, extortion and arbitrary arrests and detentions among displaced communities have been reported in Buthidaung, Kyauktaw and Pauktaw townships.
- Rohingya mothers are now disqualified from participating in the resumed Maternal and Child Cash Transfer (MCCT) Programme as a result of a new de facto Department of Social Welfare requirement for beneficiaries to have a National Verification Card. MCCT Programme provides cash assistance to women with children under 24 months.
- Child protection concerns continued across the country, exacerbated by displacement, conflict and natural disasters. Child Protection (CP) partners observed the following concerns and needs during July:
 - In northern Shan, there has been a marked surge in child sex workers and child labour, requiring an increase in community-level child protection, case management and awareness raising of the risks associated with child labour of any form. A need for capacity enhancement for local partners was identified, including refresher training on child marriage prevention.
 - In the Northwest, children are witnessing and experiencing aggravated assaults and violence by armed groups in the home. This requires prevention and responses to violence against children, including a further capacity building for local partners.
 - In Kayah, child begging has been increasingly observed in Loikaw township, indicating possible negative family coping mechanisms, exploitation and trafficking.
- Gender-Based Violence (GBV) partners reported that there has been an increasing need for mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), including for psychological trauma and distress, as well as domestic violence and family disputes, in the aftermath of the Cyclone Mocha and amid the conflict in the Northwest.

Response

- During the first half of 2023, protection partners provided protection assistance to more than 929,000 out of the 2.1 million people targeted for assistance in the HRP. A total of 370,000 received child protection services, nearly 260,000 received GBV services, and almost 232,000 people have been reached with mine action services, including Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) and victim assistance.
- In the Southeast, the following responses were undertaken in July:
 - Partners completed a review of 75 persons with specific needs for cash assistance, 20 legal consultations, 15 NFI Post Distribution Monitoring surveys, 5 Rapid Protection Assessments, 3 legal awareness sessions, 1 project monitoring assessment, and 1 capacity building training across eastern Bago, Kayin, Mon and Tanintharyi.
 - In southern Shan and Kayah, partners distributed 1,420 solar lamps, approved 232 persons with specific needs (PSN) for cash assistance, and documented 40 cases involving protection incidents.
- In Rakhine, partners continued to develop and share safety messages in Rohingya, Rakhine and Myanmar languages for further dissemination to affected people. In late July, the Protection Cluster joined an inter-agency mission to visit the Taung Paw resettlement site in Myebon township. The main objective was to understand aspects related to social cohesion, development of the market committee, community governance structure, rights related to citizenship, housing, land and property (HLP), and access to services.
- In the Northwest, GBV, child protection, mine action and other protection interventions continued despite limited access. This included dissemination of key messages, awareness raising, capacity building support and other protection assistance. In addition, multi-purpose cash was provided to 14 persons with specific needs in Kale township, Sagaing.
- CP partners continued to provide a minimum package of services, prioritizing community-level CP, case management, awareness raising, psychosocial support, distribution of CP kits where access permits and referral services. CP and GBV partners produced a guidance note to support partners in the field.
- GBV partners developed a dignity kit guidance note to facilitate a standardized but context-specific approach to the development and distribution of dignity kits. The integration of GBV risk mitigation measures, including in the distribution of dignity kits was also promoted in all humanitarian interventions. In addition, GBV partners undertook the following responses in June and July 2023:
 - In Kachin, partners distributed 100 dignity kits in an IDP camp and provided sexuality education sessions.
 - In Rakhine, partners distributed 1,500 dignity kits and provided services, including case management, and psychosocial support through 29 Women and Girls Centers (WGCs) across the state.
 - In the Southeast, Psychological First Aid training for 22 participants from Mon and Kayin was facilitated.

- In Kayah, GBV actors conducted psychosocial activities and MHPSS awareness raising at eight WGCs in Hpruso and Loikaw townships. GBV actors distributed 300 dignity kits and 164 Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) kits to women and girls of reproductive age in Loikaw township.

Gaps & Constraints

- In the Southeast, several challenges were prominent in July 2023:
 - Movement restrictions are ongoing in Kayin, Mon and Tanintharyi. The safety of humanitarian workers and returning IDPs is being compromised by ongoing security threats and landmine incidents.
 - There has been a significant shortfall in GBV case management services in eastern Bago, Mon and Tanintharyi. The GBV working group is looking into ways to address this gap.
- In Rakhine, travel authorizations continue to be a challenge for partners to reach the people in need. In the Northwest, shortfalls in funding, restrictions on access, movement and transportation, roadblocks and multiple checkpoints, arbitrary arrest and detention, in addition to ongoing conflict, continue to have a huge impact on the delivery of humanitarian assistance.

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

Needs

- In Kachin, an estimated 10,000 IDPs were newly displaced in Bhamo, Hpakant, Mansi, Momauk and Shwegu townships as of early August 2023, in addition to more than 14,000 IDPs previously in Shwegu township since March. Nearly 9,000 IDPs in Shwegu cannot be reached due to access restrictions.
- In the Northwest, cluster partners identified the following needs in July:
 - In Sagaing, an estimated 33,600 IDPs in Kale township urgently need shelter materials, NFIs as well as other essential humanitarian assistance. In addition, about 10 conflict-affected communities in Kanbalu township require food and shelter assistance, according to cluster partners.
 - In Magway and Chin, about 2,000 IDPs in Saw and Mindat townships need shelter and NFI assistance.
- In the Southeast, more than 80,000 people have been affected by floods in August. According to partner's initial assessments, as of 20 August, more than 300 families in Kawkareik township in Kayin were affected and urgently need shelter. Partners are still assessing the situation facing about 1,226 affected families in Mon and 500 affected families in Kayin.
- In Rakhine, shelter assistance remains a primary concern, particularly since Cyclone Mocha, with more than 72,000 Rohingya and Kaman IDPs in camps being in need of shelter reconstruction, 10,000 Rohingya and Kaman IDPs living in makeshift shelters being in need of shelter assistance, and more than 55,000 Rakhine IDPs being in need of shelter assistance.

Response

- During the first half of 2023, nearly 543,000 people or 44 per cent of the 1.2 million people targeted for assistance under the HRP were provided with Shelter/NFI and CCCM services across the country.
- In Kachin, cluster partners distributed household items to 1,000 displaced people in Myitkyina and Waingmaw townships in July.
- In the Northwest, nearly 1,800 IDPs in Ye-U township in Sagaing received cash for essential relief items and about 1,270 IDPs in Kale and Tamu in Sagaing and Tedim in Chin received shelter and NFI assistance in July.
- In the Southeast, close to 2,900 displaced families in eastern Bago, Kayah, Kayin, Mon and Tanintharyi received NFI kits and more than 400 displaced families in the same areas received shelter materials in July.
- Cluster partners are currently planning to provide shelter and NFI support to 1,000 families who were severely affected by the flooding in early August.

Gaps & Constraints

- Ongoing conflict, insecurity, restrictions on travel and transportation of humanitarian supplies, as well as disrupted telecommunications and internet access in certain areas remain major challenges to reaching displaced people across the Northwest and Southeast.
- In the Northwest, more than 65,000 people have been targeted by the Cluster for cyclone response and only 7,800 of them have so far received humanitarian assistance. The gap is mostly in Sagaing and Magway, where many townships are yet to receive humanitarian support due to access blockages. Partners have indicated that more distributions would happen in these areas once the situation allows. Lack of immediate funding has also been a key challenge.
- In the Southeast, provision of shelter materials and NFIs was slightly delayed in Myawaddy township in Kayin, due to a shortage of supplies in local markets. Movement restrictions, access to livelihood activities and rigorous inspections and extortion at multiple checkpoints continue to be reported across the Southeast.

Immediate need for shelter and NFIs in the Southeast has increased due to the impact of floods and partners' limited capacity.

- In Kachin, humanitarian access to displacement sites, especially in Shwegu township, has caused a significant gap for about 9,000 IDPs, while there has been ongoing effort through different channels to transport the needed support.
- In Rakhine, humanitarian access is temporarily open in most areas for 'regular activities' while the cyclone response will resume as soon as items are shipped from Yangon to Sittwe, following the approval of the distribution and transportation plans.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Needs

- In Rakhine, the following needs and concerns were identified:
 - 18 per cent of 192 AA-MAF displacement sites still lack sufficient water; 60 per cent remain without appropriate sanitation; and 94 per cent are still experiencing hygiene gaps (Cluster 3W analysis, June 2023).
 - There is a general need for improvement in WASH facilities in displacement sites, including drainage system, walkways and pathways, to enable safe access.
 - Vector control agents and mosquito nets are required in both displacement sites and for communities across Rakhine as mosquito-borne diseases such as dengue are becoming more prevalent during the rainy season.
- In Kachin, there is a need and gap in water and sanitation services in 53 return and resettlement sites in several townships due to insufficient funding.
- In the Southeast, WASH assistance, including water purification items, hygiene kits, food and medicines is urgently needed for nearly 20,000 people have been newly displaced in eastern Bago, Kayin, Mon and Tanintharyi since July.

Response

- During the first half of 2023, about 637,000 people (39 per cent), out of the 1.6 million people targeted under the HRP received WASH services across the country.
- In Rakhine, the following responses were undertaken in 134 Rakhine and Rohingya IDP camps/sites in 10 townships in July and August.
 - WASH partners organized 193 hygiene promotion sessions and provided critical WASH supplies, to nearly 6,000 IDPs. These supplies included 1,002 hygiene kits, sanitary pads for women and girls, bars of soap, jerrycans/water buckets and 332 water filters.
 - Partners reconstructed and rehabilitated latrines in 30 displacement sites/camps in Buthidaung, Kyauktaw and Sittwe townships; renovated more than 50 wells and handpumps in 2 IDP camps and in 1 village in Pauktaw and Sittwe townships; repaired 28 solar lights in 1 IDP camp in Sittwe township; and regular distribution of chlorinated water in Pauktaw township.
 - Partners also conducted waste management activities, cleaning camp and drainage channels in three IDP camps in Pauktaw and Sittwe townships. This included removal of 4,500 cubic feet of waste from the camps.
- In Kachin, partners provided two hand washing stations at a church compound in Waingmaw township, where new IDPs from Nam Sam Yang village are hosted.
- In the Northwest, the following responses were undertaken in July.
 - In Sagaing, 10,000 liters of drinking water were provided to new IDPs in Kale township; and hygiene kits and water buckets were provided to nearly 2,000 IDPs in Budalin, Khin-U, Tabayin and Taze townships. In addition, hygiene items are being purchased from local vendors to provide assistance to people in need in Myaung, Shwebo, Wetlet and Ye-U townships.
- In Shan, the following responses were undertaken in July:
 - In southern Shan, WASH partners distributed hygiene kits, water containers and water purification items to 870 IDPs in Nyaungshwe (355), Kunhing (361), and in Mongnai (154) townships. In addition, more than 6,500 IDPs from Pekon township received WASH assistance as part of an inter-agency multi-sectoral distribution mission between 7 and 11 August.
 - In northern Shan, two tube wells were installed in a displacement site and a relocation site in Lashio and Tangyan townships. In addition, the construction of shelters and latrines for 93 displaced families in 3 camps in Kutkai township, which are slated for closure, is near completion.
- In the Southeast, cluster partners are planning to distribute basic hygiene items in their targeted areas in Kayah, Kayin, Mon and Tanintharyi.

Gaps & Constraints

- In Rakhine, some WASH partners continue to face limited access to respond where needed. Heavy rains and flooding have impacted on construction and hygiene promotion activities in most displacement sites. Delays and confiscation of supplies at checkpoints continue to be reported. Market prices have increased and supplies in markets are more limited since the cyclone in mid-May.
- In the Northwest and Southeast, limited access, lack of TA approval, physical obstacles to the transportation of supplies, including road blockages, damaged bridges and multiple checkpoints, as well as ongoing conflict and insecurity pose major challenges in reaching affected people.
- Humanitarian access remains limited to new displacement sites in many townships in Kayah and southern Shan.
- In northern Shan, there is insufficient funding to support the operation and maintenance of WASH facilities in protracted IDP camps.
- In Kachin, TAs to reach IDPs in Shwegu township remained pending at the time of reporting. The blockage of road transportation between Bhamo and Myitkyina towns have caused a delay in delivering WASH assistance to people in need.

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