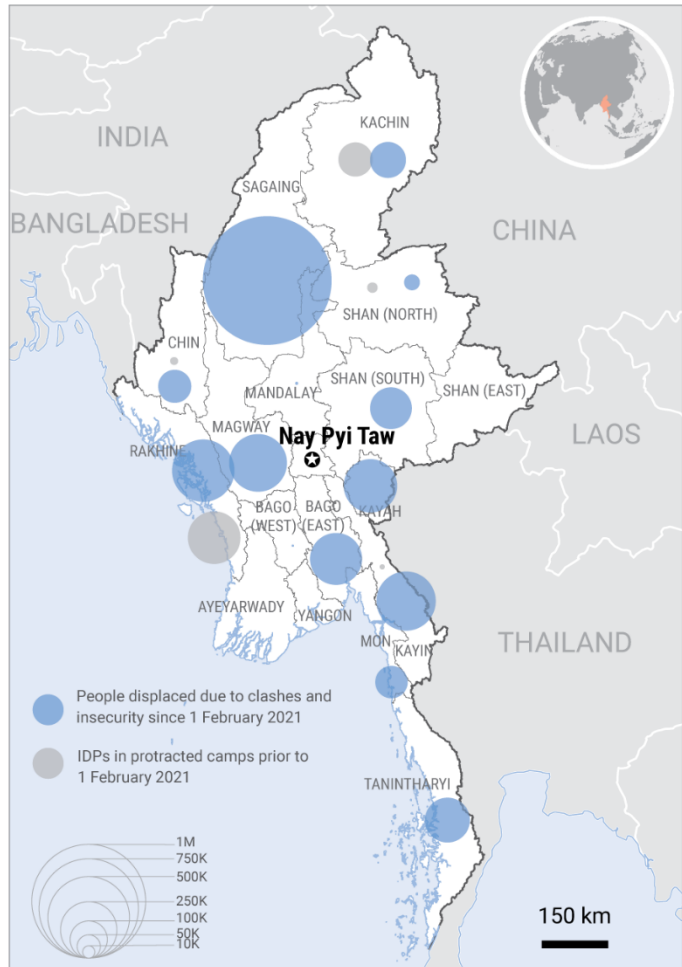


This independent update, covering humanitarian developments up to 28 June, is produced by OCHA Myanmar under its global mandate, in collaboration with the Inter-Cluster Coordination Group and UN agencies. Response figures are based on self-reporting by organizations to clusters. The next humanitarian update will be issued in late July 2024.

HIGHLIGHTS & KEY MESSAGES

- Civilian protection concerns are on the rise as conflict continues to expand across the country. Pervasive landmine contamination, explosive hazards, and fighting with heavy weapons and aerial bombardment continues to drive displacement and exacerbate already severe humanitarian needs.
- Countrywide, more than 3 million people are estimated to be internally displaced. Many of the newly displaced are living without proper shelters, enduring severe weather in the monsoon season.
- Recent attacks and occupation of humanitarian facilities in Rakhine and other areas are elevating risks for both humanitarian personnel and the populations they serve.
- In Rakhine, intense fighting has forced thousands of people to flee their homes in recent months. In the state capital, Sittwe, civilian protection concerns are growing, with reports of newly planted mines, forced evictions, and mass arrests around the town area.
- Clashes have intensified in Kachin in several townships and are estimated to have reached within six miles of the state capital, Myitkyina. A large number of people are reportedly displaced.
- In northern Shan, the temporary ceasefire agreement between the Myanmar Armed Forces (MAF) and the Three Brotherhood Alliance is no longer holding, with the resumption of clashes in several townships during the last week of June.
- Six months in, the [2024 Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan \(HNRP\)](#) remains critically underfunded, with only 12 per cent of required funding received, according to the [Financial Tracking Service](#). More resources are urgently needed to support response efforts and alleviate the suffering of affected people in Myanmar.



KEY FIGURES*

18.6M

People in need

5.3M

People targeted

949K

People reached so far in 2024

12% FUNDED

The 2024 HNRP has received \$123M against the \$994M appeal.

SITUATION OVERVIEW

Persisting conflict and increasingly complex operational environment

Prolonged conflict in Myanmar continues to drive surging displacement, civilian protection concerns and growing humanitarian needs. More than 3 million people are internally displaced. The vast majority of the newly displaced are living in jungles, open fields or makeshift shelters. Since the monsoon has started, many displaced men, women and children are enduring severe weather with heavy rains, strong winds and flooding. With the escalation in conflict last October, the response environment has grown more complex. Advocacy continues with all duty bearers to support an expansion of humanitarian access and to encourage them to fulfill their responsibility to provide assistance themselves to people in need in their respective areas of control.

There are mounting concerns about the protection of aid workers and humanitarian facilities and assets, with alarming security incidents in Rakhine and other areas. In northern Rakhine, a World Food Programme (WFP) warehouse storing nearly 1,200 metric tons of life-saving food and supplies in Maungdaw Township was looted and set on fire on 22 June. WFP has not been able to access the warehouse since late May due to ongoing armed clashes. WFP released a [statement](#) on 25 June condemning the violence. Also in Rakhine, two humanitarian facilities in a Rohingya internally displaced persons (IDP) camp in Sittwe Township have been occupied by a party to the conflict since the third week of June. The offices of two international organizations in Maungdaw Town were also temporarily occupied earlier in June. An interagency mission of two UN vehicles on their way to Myitkyina Town from Mandalay were temporarily detained in mid-June. These incidents are a violation of International Humanitarian Law and the humanitarian community reminds all parties to the conflict of their obligations to protect and respect civilians, aid workers and humanitarian facilities and assets.

Landmines and explosive hazard casualties on the rise

Landmines and explosive remnants of war (ERW) continue to harm civilians and displaced people across the country and hinder access to essential services and livelihoods. Between 1 and 22 June, 9 civilians died and 36 more were injured due to landmine and ERW explosions, with several of them losing legs or fingers in Chin, Magway, northern and southern Shan, Rakhine and Tanintharyi. The casualties include multiple children (1 fatality and 25 injuries) from an ERW explosion in a primary school on the outskirts of Dawei, the capital of Tanintharyi, on 4 June. Many of the other incidents reportedly occurred when the victims were carrying out livelihood activities, with some working on their farm, picking vegetables in forests, and grazing cattle. Many of the displaced people would be impacted if they were to be encouraged to return prematurely without landmine clearance.

As conflict escalates in Kachin, national partners continue to step up

Fighting has intensified in Kachin following the Kachin Independence Army's (KIA) new wave of offensives against MAF strongholds that was launched on 7 March. Clashes in Bhamo, Hpakant, Mansi, Momauk, Myitkyina, Puta-O, Sumprabum, Tanai and Waingmaw townships have driven thousands of people to flee. The fighting is moving closer and closer to the capital, Myitkyina, and is estimated to be within six miles of the downtown area. It is estimated that more than 80,000 people are currently displaced in 11 out of 18 townships in Kachin, mostly as a result of the escalation in conflict since early March. This adds to the more than 93,000 protracted IDPs since 2011. Mansi, Momauk, Myitkyina and Waingmaw townships host the highest numbers of new IDPs.

Throughout Myanmar, national partners play an essential role in humanitarian response efforts, providing lifesaving assistance as first responders who take on the greatest level of risk, often being the front-line responders. In Kachin, where access constraints increasingly limit the movement of international actors, the national partners find ways to support. From the perspective of one national partner, they see the people in need as their own people, so they must reach them at any cost. They persist in their efforts despite their own safety risks, and despite formidable funding challenges amid growing needs. In Kachin, national partners coordinate closely with international actors, with their participation in the humanitarian coordination system supporting movement forward on the localization agenda.

Thousands of people newly displaced in Rakhine

In Rakhine, the renewed conflict between the MAF and Arakan Army (AA) has persisted for more than seven months, with the fighting continuing in the northern and southern parts of the state. In northern Rakhine, the capture of Buthidaung Township by the AA resulted in the displacement of an estimated 70,000 people in May. The AA extended its offensive on Maungdaw, and the military ordered people to leave the town by 26 June. Clashes in Maungdaw are happening closer to the town. No organization has managed to confirm the exact number of people who remain in the town area due to communication challenges, but a number of civilians reportedly fled to the AA-controlled area. The fighting involves airstrikes and shelling, in addition to landmine contamination and damaged roads and bridges. Protection of civilians and providing safe passage to vulnerable people is crucial. In southern Rakhine, fighting has

escalated in Toungup, Thandwe and Kyaukpyu townships. In Thandwe Township, the conflict has particularly intensified around Sin Gaung Village, where 60 people reportedly died and 200 houses were burnt down between 4 and 7 June. The Thandwe Airport has been closed since 3 June. The AA has been attempting to take control of the airport and Thandwe Town, where the popular Ngapali Beach is located, since the beginning of June. Thousands of residents in Thandwe Town fled their homes to nearby Gwa Town during the last week of June.

In the state capital, Sittwe, civilian protection concerns are growing, with reports of new mine contamination, forced evictions, and mass arrests around the town area. Between 29 and 31 May, there were mass arrests in Byaing Phyu Village, which consequently displaced an estimated 1,800 people to monasteries in Sittwe. During the second week of June, residents from more than 30 villages were ordered to move to Sittwe, affecting at least 25,000 people. In mid-June, about 200 residents in a ward in Sittwe were detained during a night inspection and were taken away for investigation. Some have reportedly been released but the exact number is unknown.

The resumption of conflict since last November has displaced an estimated 310,000 people in Rakhine and Paletwa Township in Chin. In addition to those who were already displaced, this brings the total estimated displacement in Rakhine to likely well over 510,000 people. More than half a year since the renewed fighting, displaced and conflict-affected people across Rakhine have been subject to increasing food prices in the most affected markets and a widespread shortage of critical household items, including medicines and hygiene kits. The closure of roads and waterways continues to hinder humanitarian operations, affecting the movement of supplies both within and from outside the state. The shutdown or instability of internet and cell phone networks severely limits the population's access to information, remote management of activities and connections with Yangon and elsewhere.

Alarming protection concerns and growing needs in the Northwest

In the Northwest, protection of civilians remains a grave concern, with frequent reports of casualties due to the heavy use of aerial strikes, artillery shelling, landmines and other military operations in Chin, Magway, Sagaing and Mandalay. The Northwest hosts nearly 1.6 million displaced people, more than half the total displacement nationwide. Since the end of May, an estimated 40,000 people have been newly displaced across the Northwest. This includes more than 30,000 people fleeing from Tonzang and Tedim Townships in Chin, where fighting has intensified. There were a significant number of casualties including children in Mingin Township in Sagaing and Natogyi Township in Mandalay due to airstrikes on 3 and 8 June. Ongoing conflict and severe weather have further escalated humanitarian needs. In Sagaing, more than 92,000 IDPs in Kale Township urgently need food, shelter, and other essential relief items and services. In Chin, more than 2,000 households whose homes were severely damaged by strong winds and heavy rain in several townships between March and May need shelter and other assistance. Wherever accessible, humanitarian partners continue to provide life-saving assistance in the face of growing needs.

Conflict across the Southeast raising concerns for civilian safety

In the Southeast, the humanitarian situation continues to deteriorate with persistent conflict across multiple states and regions. In eastern Bago, fighting has intensified in Kyauktaga, Nyaunglebin and Shwegyin townships, displacing nearly 10,000 people from 16 villages since the end of May. In Tanintharyi, artillery shelling killed four civilians, including two children, and injured two more in two villages on 7 June. More than 500 people were forced to flee to safer locations. In Mon, artillery shelling injured a pregnant woman and damaged two houses in Kyaikhto Township on 3 June. Between 31 May and 12 June, an interagency multi-sectoral distribution was carried out in Hopong, Lawsawk, Nyaungshwe and Pinlaung townships in southern Shan, providing life-saving assistance to approximately 16,400 IDPs.

Resumption of clashes in northern Shan

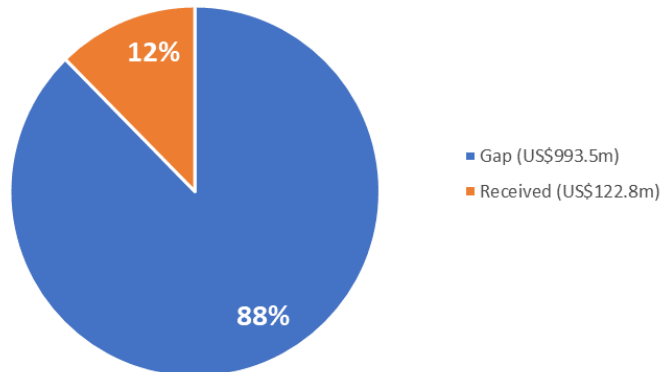
In northern Shan, nearly 12,900 people are displaced in about 100 displacement sites due to the escalation of conflict between the MAF and Three Brotherhood Alliance (TBA) between late October 2023 and early January 2024. Despite the 11 January ceasefire agreement, fighting between the MAF and TBA members resumed in Kyaukme, Lashio and Nawngkhio townships on 25 June, following tension and military activities by all parties. Between 19 and 24 June, two civilians died and three more, including a child, were injured due to artillery shelling in Kyaukme Township. Protection concerns continue, with incidents with landmines and explosive devices, forced returns, confiscation of civilian assets, and threat of forced recruitment in several townships.

Critically low funding levels hindering delivery of vital humanitarian assistance

Half-way through 2024, the [US\\$994m Myanmar Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan \(HNRP\)](#) remains critically underfunded, with only 12.4 per cent of the required funding received as of 27 June, according to the [Financial Tracking Service](#). Substantial and sustained support including financial assistance from the international community is crucial for partners to deliver assistance to affected and displaced people. During the first quarter of 2024, partners provided life-saving assistance to almost 950,000 people across the country. Without an urgent injection of funds, aid agencies will soon be forced to make impossible choices about cuts to planned assistance. The [Myanmar HNRP 2024](#)

Addendum, published in early June, outlines the changes in operating context since the HNRP was first published and details the consequences for people in need if current funding levels continue for the remainder of the year.

Myanmar Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan - 2024 (US\$993.5m)



Voices of conflict-affected children



“My life is a blur, and I don't know what will happen next in this unpredictable state.” -Esther (name changed)

Fourteen-year-old Esther, an IDP from Chin State, no longer recognizes the life she is living. “I feel so depressed being a displaced person...We do not live in our own house...Plus, living in a war-torn area, we are not able to attend school peacefully. We have IDP schools, but we have no proper school infrastructure, and the teachers lack resources.”

Children are exceptionally affected by the current crisis and continuing hostilities. Of the 18.6 million people in need of humanitarian assistance in Myanmar, 6 million of them are children.

Esther adds, “I miss the school in our village. It was quite big, and we also had a very big playground. I miss simplicity in the old days. I think about my friends, whom I am away from because of the conflict. If the political situation stabilises, I would like to return to our village, meet with my friends, and play on the playground freely.

As children like Esther struggle amid their displacement, humanitarians are working to provide them with essential services like education, protection, health support and WASH assistance. But with the 2024 HNRP only 12 per cent funded, aid agencies are struggling to reach everyone in need. More resources are urgently needed to ensure the most vulnerable receive the help they need.

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