



Flood submerged houses in Myanmar (©WASH Cluster/2024)

unicef 

for every child

Myanmar Flood Flash Update No.2

Date: 22 September 2024

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

Across Myanmar, nearly 890,000 people,¹ including an estimated 270,000 children are affected by the ongoing flooding in nine states and regions, including Nay Pyi Taw. The most affected areas are Mandalay Region, southern Shan, eastern Bago, Kayin State, and Nay Pyi Taw. As per OCHA, more than 300 fatalities and nearly 100 injuries have been reported.²

The floods and landslides have caused widespread damage and destruction of homes, household assets, destroyed livelihoods and critical infrastructure including health facilities, schools, water sources, and major highways and bridges. In some parts of Mandalay region which was among the worst affected, water levels in many flooded villages have receded while challenges remain for the affected population to return home. Communication challenges persist due to flooded roads and downed electric lines.

In eastern and southern Shan, flooding and landslides have affected 26 townships; in Bago region, more than 100,000 people have been severely affected across six townships while in Mon and Kayin states, around 100,00 are affected by floods and landslides.³ In Rakhine, more than 40,000 people from villages including IDPs locations in Mrauk U, and Myinbya and Tounangoup townships are affected.

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 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

WASH

In the northwest, the WASH team is working with partners to assess the situation in Mandalay situation and respond to the needs. The response is expected to include provision of critical supplies including hygiene kits, soap, water

¹ United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, Myanmar Flood Situation Report, 20 September 2024.

² ibid

³ ibid

purification sachets to the families affected by floods. UNICEF is planning to support affected population with critical WASH supplies in Kayin state.

Health and Nutrition:

UNICEF, in collaboration with partners, is distributing newborn kits to cover the needs of pregnant women and one-month old babies. Some partners started providing essential health care services to flood-affected communities.

UNICEF continues to provide infant and young child feeding (IYCF) counselling and distributed nutrition items to 100 households for the promotion of optimal feeding and caring practices in Shan state. In collaboration with partners, UNICEF has intensified mid-upper arm circumference (MUAC) screening for early detection and referral of children with malnutrition and IYCF counselling in Taunggu and Phyu townships of Bago east. In Rakhine, coordination with partners is ongoing for assessing and monitoring the situation and design and execute appropriate nutrition responses in flood-affected areas.

Child Protection

In Bago, UNICEF and partners are providing community sessions on mental health and psychosocial support, prevention of family separation, violence against children and risk mitigation on gender-based violence alongside awareness and orientation on explosive ordinance risk education to flood affected communities. In the northwest, child protection kits will be distributed along with awareness raising messages. Case management service for unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) remains as a priority.

Education

UNICEF is actively collaborating with several partners to ensure the swift resumption and continuity of learning for children. A holistic education in emergency response is planned to ensure not only access to education but also to support the mental health and psychosocial wellbeing of the children, fostering a safe and nurturing environment that supports their overall learning and development. The efforts will include the distribution of Essential Learning Package (ELP) kits and roofing sheets, tailored to the specific needs identified by UNICEF partners and guided by the Education Cluster's assessments.

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 Behaviour Change

UNICEF has reached 19,167 people with lifesaving messages through social media with emergency preparedness tips for before, during and after floods, tips to watch out for risks of landslides, child protection messages on prevention of GBV in shelters, tips for families who are separated due to the flood and managing stress after natural disaster. UNICEF in collaboration with Cherry FM radio station is broadcasting lifesaving messages on emergency preparedness and coping tips during and after flood to save lives and to prevent from risks ten times per day to alert the communities across ten states/regions for preparedness and safe evacuation. Emergency messages on prevention of snake bites and waterborne diseases, such as diarrhoea, through improved hygiene practices and safe water usage are printed and distributed in temporary shelters in Naypyitaw.

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.

The WASH Cluster is assessing contingency stocks from cluster partners to address urgent needs across the country. So far, over 90,000 people have received critical assistance, including family hygiene kits, soap, rope, plastic sheets, water purification tablets, and jerry cans. This support has reached populations in Rakhine, as well as in Bago, Shan, Mandalay and Sagaing. In parallel, cluster partners are disseminating vital flood-preparedness messaging, distributing water purification tablets, and conducting essential cleaning of water sources. These collective efforts are ensuring that vulnerable communities receive both immediate relief and long-term support for water and sanitation needs.

The Child Protection (CP) 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 CP 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

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

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