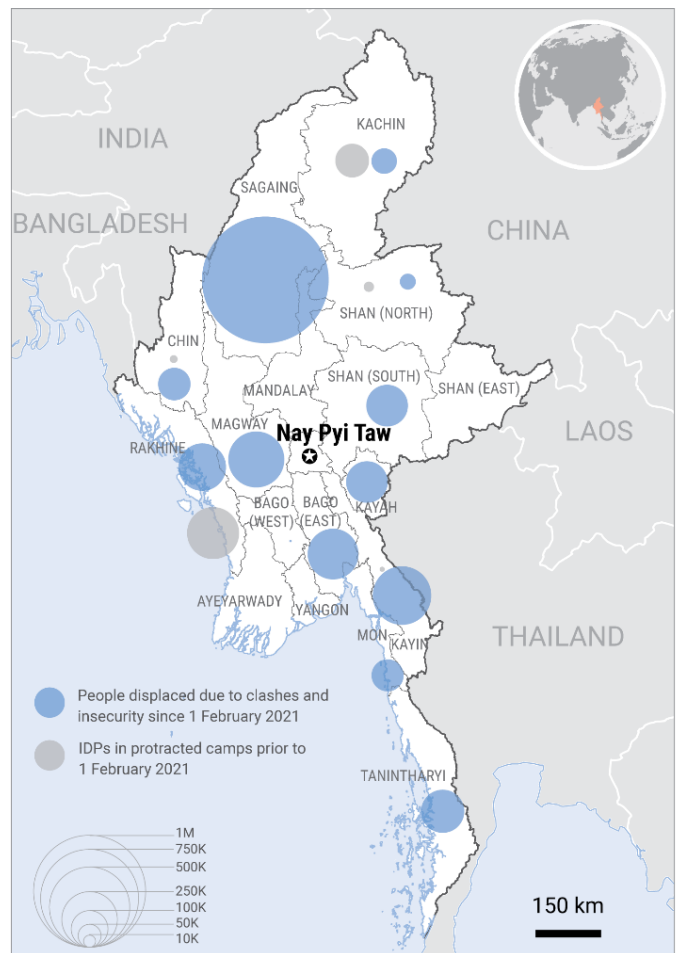


This independent update, covering humanitarian developments up to 22 May, is produced by OCHA Myanmar under its global mandate, in collaboration with the Inter-Cluster Coordination Group and UN agencies. Response figures are based on self-reporting by organizations to clusters. The next humanitarian update will be issued mid-June 2024.

HIGHLIGHTS & KEY MESSAGES

- The humanitarian crisis in Myanmar has entered a dangerous new chapter with entrenched conflict posing grave risks to civilians, stirring a worrying resurgence of inter-communal tension and driving record levels of displacement.
- The humanitarian situation in Rakhine is particularly alarming with fighting intensifying and inter-communal tensions simmering. Access restrictions remain severe despite soaring needs. With the peak of the dry season, water scarcity and cases of Acute Watery Diarrhoea (AWD) have been widely reported while an estimated 1.6 million people are now estimated to be without access to hospital care in central and northern Rakhine.
- In Kayah, an intense battle for control of the key border trading town of Myawaddy resulted in both internal displacement and fluid cross-border population movement. An estimated 4,000 people from Myawaddy Town and surrounding areas remain displaced along the Myanmar-Thai border.
- As the volatile monsoon season approaches, strong winds and heavy rain have already hit several townships in Chin, Magway, Sagaing, and northern Shan in recent months, causing damage and destruction to civilian properties and other structures.
- Despite these challenges, humanitarian partners continue to deliver assistance to the people in need, reaching almost 1 million people during the first quarter of 2024 despite gross underfunding.
- The [2024 Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan \(HNRP\)](#) remains alarmingly under-resourced, with only 10 per cent of required funding received, according to the Financial Tracking Service (FTS). This is despite the deepening needs, the surge in new displacement, and soaring inflation that have further stretched the grossly insufficient resources across clusters.



KEY FIGURES*

18.6M

People in need

5.3M

People targeted

949K

People reached so far in 2024

10% FUNDED

The 2024 HNRP has received \$102M against the \$994M appeal.

SITUATION OVERVIEW

Growing humanitarian needs amid escalating conflict



Photo: A woman and child in a displacement camp in Kachin State.

Intense conflict in multiple states and regions, widespread contamination by landmines and explosive remnants of war (ERW), surging internal displacement and extreme weather events are posing deadly threats to civilians in Myanmar. In early May, the number of people displaced nationwide reached 3 million and continues to climb. A large proportion of new IDPs are living in jungles and forests or out in the open in hard-to-reach areas. As the dry season reaches its peak, many are enduring extreme heat conditions without proper shelter or safe water. Some will soon face their fourth monsoon season without a proper roof over their heads.

In the first quarter of 2024, fighting has intensified particularly in Rakhine, Kayin and Sagaing. Conflict involving the deployment of heavy weapons, aerial bombardment, and shooting has driven national displacement figures up by 50 per cent in just six months. The emergence of new parties to the conflict and changes in territorial control along Myanmar's borders have altered the response landscape and opened new regional dimensions to the crisis. Amid this fighting, increasingly alarming reports are being received of violations against civilians, including recently in the Northwest, and in Rakhine where inter-communal tension is again reigniting. All parties are reminded of their obligations under International Humanitarian Law (IHL) to protect civilians, including aid workers, as well as civilian property.

Conflict in Rakhine expands in the south and intensifies in the north

In Rakhine, the hostilities between the Arakan Army (AA) and the Myanmar Armed Forces (MAF) continue to escalate, with new parties also now entering the conflict. Fighting spread to new areas in the south of the State in April, at the same time as escalating in the north. Bombardment from the ground, sea and air continues to severely impact civilian areas, causing further casualties, displacement, and destruction of civilian properties in both ethnic Rakhine and Rohingya communities. The renewed conflict since the year-long ceasefire failed on 13 November 2023 has displaced

an estimated 185,000 people in Rakhine and Paletwa Township in Chin. In addition to those who were already displaced, this brings the total current displacement in Rakhine to well over 350,000 people. Concerns over conscription are also contributing to people's decisions to move. The renewed conflict, the entry of new parties including the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army and forced recruitment are combining to fuel dangerous inter-communal tensions, with Rohingya civilians increasingly being caught in the middle. All parties to the conflict are called upon to exercise restraint, stop misinformation and hate speech that could exacerbate the situation, and promote social cohesion and respect for human rights.

In the south of the State, clashes have intensified in Ann, Thandwe and Toungup townships in April. According to initial reports, an estimated 15,000 people from Daw Mya and surrounding villages in Thandwe Township have been displaced to the town area since the last week of April. During the same period, more than 1,000 people from villages between Thandwe and Toungup townships fled their homes to Toungup urban area. Fighting has also been escalating in Ann Township since the end of March; however, information about the needs of affected people is difficult to verify due to communication challenges and insecurity. Amid road closures, there were reports of people in Ann Township struggling to cope with food shortages, particularly displaced people and those residing in more isolated villages.

The situation in Buthidaung Township in the north of the State has rapidly worsened with increasing fighting. On 15 April, an international NGO office and pharmacy in the township were burnt down in an arson attack. The day before, approximately 50 houses were reportedly set on fire in downtown Buthidaung. Humanitarian facilities and properties of humanitarian staff were also impacted in the downtown fires. Thousands of Rohingya people from rural areas were displaced to urban Buthidaung during April and early May. Likewise, thousands of Rakhine people from urban areas have left Buthidaung since the second week of April. Nearly 10,000 people have been newly displaced to safer areas in Buthidaung Township. On 11 May, artillery shelling hit a hospital where IDPs were sheltering in Buthidaung Town, killing at least four civilians and injuring more than a dozen others. On 19 May, the AA claimed to have taken full control of Buthidaung Township after weeks of intense fighting. An unverified number of houses in downtown Buthidaung were set on fire by unconfirmed parties in mid-May. Airstrikes over Buthidaung displaced hundreds of Rohingya people from their villages on 18 May.

In neighboring Maungdaw Township, some 2,000 people from 5 villages fled their homes on 22 April, in fear of possible fighting at a nearby Border Guard Police (BGP) base. On 6 May, about 50 houses and shops in Maungdaw Town were burnt down during intense clashes. To date, at least four bridges in northern Rakhine have been blown up. During April, artillery shelling, gunfire, airstrikes, and landmine or ERW explosions allegedly killed at least 16 civilians and injured 28 more in Ann, Kyaukpyu, Kyauktaw, Maungdaw, Minbya, Myebon, Ramree, Sittwe, and Thandwe townships.














In the six months since the resumption of the conflict, displaced and conflict-affected people across Rakhine have experienced shortages of cash, food and essential supplies and increasing prices. This has exacerbated the needs of already vulnerable people who were still reeling from the impact of devastating Cyclone Mocha, one year ago. Closure of roads and waterways continues to hinder humanitarian operations, affecting the movement of supplies both within and outside the state with many stockpiles now depleted.

Water scarcity and disease

Seasonal water scarcity and cases of AWD from the resulting sanitation and hygiene issues are worsening the suffering of displaced and conflict-affected communities in many parts of Rakhine. Normal WASH activities have been heavily interrupted increasing disease risks. Many villages across Ponnagyun Township have been facing shortages of water and there have been urgent water needs reported in Kyaukpyu and Ramree townships as well. Ponds and water sources are drying up with the scorching heat and some private wells becoming contaminated. Partners are working to support displacement sites and affected villages in Kyauktaw, Minbya and Pauktaw townships. With water scarcity, there have also been indications of cases of AWD. During April, more than 1,300 AWD cases were documented in Rakhine. Cases were reported in Thet Kae Pyin, Ohn Taw Gyi, and Say Tha Mar Gyi camps and Aung Mingalar Village in Sittwe Township, with children under five most affected, with some deaths. There were also AWD cases in other townships.

Almost one million people reached but funding gaps threaten ongoing operations

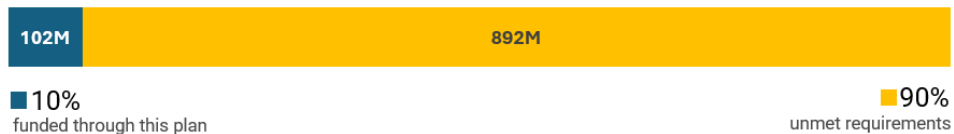
Despite facing daunting challenges, humanitarian partners remain committed to addressing the deepening needs of affected populations, reaching 949,000 people during the first quarter of the year. However, a comparison between the first quarters of 2023 and 2024 reveals a concerning trend with the percentage of the targeted population reached decreasing from 27 per cent in 2023 to 18 per cent in 2024. This 9 per cent decline is likely the product of both severe underfunding and the heavily restricted operating environment.

CLUSTER	PEOPLE IN NEED	PEOPLE TARGETED	PEOPLE REACHED	WOMEN	% CHILDREN, ADULTS, ELDERLY (<18yrs, 18-59yrs, 60+yrs)
 EDUCATION	4.5M	1.4M	12% 158K	54%	85% 15% 0%
 FOOD SECURITY	12.9M	2.3M	21% 471K	52%	35% 54% 11%
 HEALTH	12.1M	2.7M	3% 72K	68%	26% 64% 10%
 NUTRITION	2.2M	0.6M	18% 114K	59%	81% 19% 0%
 PROTECTION	12.2M	3M	8% 291K	52%	32% 57% 11%
 General	10.4M	2.8M	3% 83K	52%	32% 57% 11%
 Child Protection	8M	2.0M	7% 115K	52%	32% 57% 11%
 Gender Based Violence	8.8M	1.6M	2% 43K	52%	32% 57% 11%
 Mine Action	5.6M	2.0M	2% 50K	52%	32% 57% 11%
 SHELTER/NFI/CCCM	4.3M	1.3M	25% 331K	52%	32% 57% 11%
 WASH	5.6M	1.7M	21% 355K	52%	37% 55% 8%
 COORDINATION AND COMMON SERVICES					
 CLUSTER NOT SPECIFIED					
TOTAL	18.6M	5.3M	18% 949K	53%	44% 47% 9%

The 2024 Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan (HNRP) remains alarmingly under-resourced, with only 10 per cent of required funding received as of 22 May, according to the Financial Tracking Service (FTS). Funding has not increased in line with deepening needs, the surge in new displacement, and soaring inflation and this is stretching partners to the limit. A continuation of current funding levels for the remainder of the year would be catastrophic for affected people, many of whom would miss out on lifesaving assistance as a result.

2024 HNRP funding status as of 22 May 2024 (US\$)

 **\$994M**
FUNDING REQUIREMENT



Clusters are actively developing an HNRP addendum to analyze new conflict and displacement trends and outline the dire consequences of ongoing underfunding on the humanitarian operation. Urgent action is needed to secure immediate funding to prevent further reductions in coverage and assistance packages, particularly for newly displaced people in vulnerable situations who stand to miss out on access to critical services. Continued commitment to localization among humanitarian actors, increased support from donors, and efforts to engage regional neighbours on addressing the crisis are essential to expanding reach and reducing suffering for millions of vulnerable people across Myanmar.

Preparing for cyclones and the monsoon

Since late March, strong winds and heavy rains have hit several townships in Chin, Magway, Sagaing, and northern Shan, causing damage and destruction to civilian properties and other structures, according to humanitarian partners and other sources. In the Northwest, more than 2,000 houses in Falam, Hakha, Kanpetlet, Matupi, Mindat and Thantlang townships in Chin were severely damaged by strong winds and heavy rain on 21 March. In Sagaing, severe weather destroyed shelters and stores in Kale Township on 31 March, impacting 30,000 displaced people. This has exacerbated the humanitarian situation in Kale, where there has been ongoing fighting since late February. Partners have reported urgent need for shelter and food assistance for affected and displaced people in Kale and the Myanmar Humanitarian Fund (MHF) is allocating \$1.5 million to support the response to these needs. Also in the Northwest, strong winds and heavy rains damaged or destroyed about 400 homes, temporary shelters and other structures in early May. In northern Shan, powerful winds and rain damaged more than 100 homes and other structures, including a school, religious buildings, and houses in displacement sites, in Hsipaw, Kutkai, Namtu and Tangyan townships between 24 April and 1 May.

Myanmar's monsoon season runs from May to October, usually resulting in seasonal flooding that has a severe impact on communities across multiple states and regions, particularly Ayeyarwady, Bago, Chin, Kayin, Rakhine, Sagaing and Tanintharyi. During the 2023 monsoon, hundreds of thousands of people were affected or displaced by flooding. Nationwide, some 28 million people are estimated to live in districts with a high flood exposure risk, mainly along Myanmar's coasts, the Ayeyarwady River and in Kayin. According to the Myanmar Department of Meteorology and Hydrology, the southwest monsoon for 2024 is forecast to arrive during the second week of June and is likely to retreat from the country in the first week of October.

The country's coastal areas are also susceptible to severe cyclones which form in the Bay of Bengal during two cyclone seasons – firstly between April and May, and secondly October and November. The one-year anniversary of deadly Cyclone Mocha is approaching with many communities still in recovery mode when conflict reignited in Rakhine. Cyclone Mocha brought wind gusts of up to 305 km/h, storm surge and heavy rain, impacting more than 3 million people in an area already experiencing extreme needs. A repeat of such a disaster in the current context would be devastating.

The humanitarian community in Myanmar updates the inter-agency Emergency Response Preparedness (ERP) Plan every year to reinforce readiness to respond flexibly to a range of potential hazards, amid the new complexities. The ERP Plan includes updated risk assessments, Minimum Preparedness Actions (MPA), cluster Standard Operating Procedures for disaster response, cash tools for use in emergencies, basic guidance for the coordination of emergency community engagement and Accountability to Affected People, gender mainstreaming and preparedness for and prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) guidance.

In collaboration with humanitarian partners, Area hubs are also developing a zonal inter-agency contingency plan for the Southeast, Northeast and Northwest, while Rakhine is updating the existing contingency plan to account for change ground conditions. The MHF has also allocated \$1.5 million to support emergency preparedness and procurement of life saving supplies in Rakhine ahead of the wet season. This immediate MHF funding is very welcome but much more is needed to reach full response capacity as critical supplies have been severely depleted and must be replenished ahead of the cyclone season.

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

Humanitarian Access

In April 2024, armed conflict, administrative hurdles, and violence continued to impede humanitarian access and the delivery of essential lifesaving support in Myanmar. Armed confrontations in Magway, Rakhine, Tanintharyi, and Kachin led to repeated postponements or cancellations of aid distributions, affecting vital services such as child

protection, health, WASH, and food security. In some cases, this conflict also necessitated the temporary relocation of humanitarian staff from high-risk areas to ensure their safety. The conflict in Rakhine has further isolated Sittwe, the state capital, where there were several deadly shelling incidents. Despite these challenges, UN and INGO operations continue in Rakhine at a reduced scale, with adjustments made to staff deployments in response to security concerns and logistical obstacles.

The ongoing closures of roads and waterways into and within Rakhine severely restrict the transport of supplies. Additionally, humanitarians faced significant administrative restrictions that led to extensive delays and the rescheduling of planned activities. These constraints critically affected the timely provision of essential services and assistance to vulnerable groups in conflict-affected areas. Road closures in Saw and Pakokku townships in Magway resulted in significant delays for UN agencies. Travel approval challenges in Sittwe temporarily suspended health programs, impacting both staff and beneficiaries. In Tanintharyi, checkpoints in Thayetchaung Township slowed down service delivery by international NGOs in the protection sector, and in Kachin, EAO-operated checkpoints in Hpakant Township delayed aid delivery.

Needs, Response, Gaps and Challenges by Cluster

The progress updates below are provided by each of the seven operating clusters and their sub-working groups/areas of responsibility in Myanmar. Information is self-reported by aid organizations to the relevant clusters on a quarterly 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 shared by partners with their cluster. All partners are encouraged to share updates on their progress via the relevant clusters to ensure good visibility of gaps and response and support resource mobilization. The ICCG's Information Sharing Protocol allows for this information to be shared in a non-identifiable manner.

Education in Emergencies

Needs

- Nationwide, more than 4.5 million people are in need of education support in 2024, including almost 556,000 IDPs. This includes students, teachers and parents. Of these, more than 1.4 million have been targeted for assistance in 2024 but this is dependent on the receipt of sufficient funding and expanded access to conflict affected areas.
- In Rakhine, urgent action is needed to improve the educational environment for students, including constructing conducive learning facilities. This is especially important with newly displaced IDPs utilizing existing schools. Efforts are required to rebuild and rehabilitate affected facilities, including primary schools in Minbya and Myebon townships.
- In the Northwest, five schools and four latrines that were destroyed by airstrikes in Chin need reconstruction and students need teaching and learning materials.
- In the Northeast, the urgent relocation of IDPs and host communities in Kachin due to recent conflict disrupted ongoing educational projects. Educational support is required for affected communities.
- In the Southeast region, a middle school in Hpa-an Township, Kayin was destroyed by an airstrike, highlighting the critical need for educational infrastructure rehabilitation and support services in the region.

Response

- In the first quarter of 2024, Education Cluster partners provided support to nearly 158,000 people nationwide. This includes about 4,000 people in Rakhine, more than 39,000 in the Southeast, nearly 10,000 in the Northeast, more than 101,000 in the Northwest, and more than 3,400 in Yangon and Ayeyarwady. The support was provided to almost 134,000 children (more than 64,000 boys and more than 69,000 girls), and about 24,000 adults (nearly 9,000 men and more than 15,000 women). This overall reach represents 12 per cent of the cluster's target for 2024 and is 22 per cent below the same period in 2023 primarily due to the escalation in conflict, funding limitations and increased access restrictions.
- In Rakhine, examinations for Grade 1 to Grade 5 were completed at Temporary Learning Centers (TLC) in Rohingya displacement camps. Cash assistance was provided to 331 Rohingya students to help with their studies in Sittwe Township. School enrolment numbers in Rakhine were significant, with 1,070 students in Early Childhood Education (ECE) and 607 students in Non-Formal Education (NFE) programs across Ponnagyun, Mrauk-U, and Ann townships. Monthly incentives were extended to 262 volunteer teachers, 192 NFE facilitators, 44 ECE facilitators and 2 mobilizers in Sittwe, Pauktaw and Maungdaw townships.
- In the Northwest, cluster partners distributed Essential Learning kits to 8,067 students, and open learning materials to 1,958 students, along with teacher guidebooks. Psychosocial support and social emotional learning training and awareness sessions on child safeguarding and harassment were provided to volunteer

teachers in Chin. Library management and teacher methodology training was conducted in Sagaing and Magway.

- In the Northeast, cluster partners distributed Education in Emergencies (EiE) learning kits to 300 children in various village tracts and camps within Lashio Township in northern Shan.
- In the Southeast, partners supported almost 16,000 displaced students with continuous learning opportunities in various education programs, facilitated by more than 1,000 educators. Out-of-school children received support through Non-Formal Primary Education (NFPE) and other learning training initiatives. ELP kits, recreational kits, and school kits were distributed to support the continuous learning needs of displaced children in Mon, Kayin, Tanintharyi, and Bago.

Gaps & Constraints

- Quarter 1 data reveals there are still more than 1.2 million children prioritized for assistance in 2024 who have not been reached with any kind of support due to severe underfunding and access restrictions. Without an urgent injection of resources and expansion of access for education responders, children risk falling further behind in their education, suffering long-term developmental consequences, and losing hope for a stable future.
- A quarter of all candidates (24 per cent) were not able to sit for their final exams due to conflict-related barriers. The decline in exam participation over the past four academic years highlights significant challenges in education access and continuity, with serious lifelong consequences including reduced earning potential.
- Fear of airstrikes, increased checkpoints, and forced recruitment in conflict-affected areas have raised safety and security concerns among civilians, including students and teachers, who are restricting or reducing their movement to and from school.
- The closure of roads and waterways has hindered access to conflict zones, restricting distribution of educational supplies and causing transportation challenges for teachers and facilitators.
- The turnover rate among volunteer teachers and facilitators has increased due to conscription law implementation, inflation, and low pay, impacting the stability of educational programs.
- The temporary closure of educational facilities due to security concerns; access constraints; limited resources; and banking disruptions have stalled the rehabilitation of TLCs.

Food Security

Needs

- According to the 2024 Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan (HNRP), emergency food assistance is needed by 12.9 million people, including IDPs, returnees, stateless people and host community members. 11.5 million people need emergency agriculture and livelihood assistance with 290,000 requiring both kinds of support.
- During the first quarter of 2024, Cluster partners identified the following needs:
 - In Rakhine, nearly 166,000 newly displaced people need food and other essential relief items. Displaced and conflict-affected people are facing food shortages and soaring prices due to closures of roads and waterways since the resumption of fighting.
 - In the Northwest, almost 46,000 people in Sagaing, 21,000 people in Magway, and nearly 2,000 people in Chin and Mandalay urgently need food assistance.
 - In Kachin, more than 3,000 newly displaced people need urgent food assistance amid ongoing conflict.

Response

- During the period from 1 January to 31 March, the Cluster reached more than 452,000 people (21 per cent of the HNRP target) with emergency food assistance. Assistance was provided to almost 358,000 displaced people; more than 13,000 people who had returned, resettled, and locally integrated; almost 8,000 persons with disabilities; and more than 81,000 host community members. Additionally, the Cluster provided emergency agriculture and livelihoods assistance to more than 19,000 displaced people (35 per cent of the HNRP target).
- The response has been carried out across various states and regions, with the highest numbers of people reached in Sagaing (almost 147,000) and Kachin (more than 68,000) for emergency food assistance, and in Rakhine (more than 53,000) for emergency agriculture and livelihoods assistance.

Gaps & Constraints

- Despite the progress made, there are still significant gaps in meeting the needs of those prioritized (2.25 million). Access challenges, underfunding, banking issues, supply chain disruptions, and the escalation of conflict have significantly hindered humanitarian response efforts across the country.
- The increasing number of IDPs and the rise of negative coping mechanisms among host communities are expected to exacerbate food security gaps in the coming months. There is a pressing need for flexible funding and operational guidelines to allow responses to continue. Increased support is needed to overcome logistical and financial barriers to enhancing response efforts and to bridge the significant gaps in food security. Without this, partners will need to resort to reducing the size of the food basket and the frequency of assistance to maximize reach. Additionally, people will likely resort to negative coping strategies, especially women and girls, exacerbating the nutritional status for children and pregnant and lactating women.
- Food Security partners ask donors to consider the establishment of an emergency response fund to support humanitarian assistance within 72 hours in conflict-affected areas.



Health

Needs

- Nationwide, 12.1 million people are in need of health support, including 1 million IDPs. Of these, 2.7 million have been targeted for assistance in 2024.
- At least 400,000 oral rehydration salt (ORS) sachets are urgently needed for contingency stocks. There is also a need for zinc tablets, community healthcare kits, clean delivery kits, community newborn kits, and inter-agency emergency health kits.
- In Rakhine and southern Chin, there is a dire need for essential health services, medicine and medical supplies. The importation of medicine and medical supplies to Rakhine has been restricted and no travel authorizations (TAs) have been granted for health partners since 13 November 2023. This has impacted 329,000 people in need of health assistance. Nearly all hospitals have stopped functioning in central and northern Rakhine. With the scarcity of water reaching its peak and severe interruptions to WASH and health support, Rakhine has seen an elevated number of AWD during April and ORS is urgently needed. From 30 March to 30 April 2024, more than 1,300 AWD cases were documented by Health Cluster partners in Rakhine. With road closures and movement restrictions, an estimated 1.6 million people are without access to hospitals in central and northern Rakhine since the first quarter of 2024.
- In northern Shan, essential health services, medicine and medical supplies are critically needed in conflict-affected areas around Lashio Township. The delivery of malaria diagnostics and therapeutics is failing to reach several impacted townships in northern Shan, with thousands of clinical cases documented since October 2023. At least 20,000 malaria tests are critically needed.
- In Kachin, funding is urgently needed for healthcare services, medicine, and medical supplies for thousands of IDPs who are currently not receiving humanitarian assistance in Sumprabum, Tanai, Bhamo, Momauk and Waingmaw townships.
- In the Northwest, the estimated 26,000 new IDPs in Pakokku Township in Magway led to a surge in demand for and insufficient supply of safe drinking water, resulting in some AWD cases among the displaced population.
- In the Southeast, \$600,000 is critically needed to enable three partners to continue vital operations in Kayah. The partners are providing lifesaving health services and referral support for IDPs.

Response

- During the first quarter of 2024, the Cluster reached nearly 72,000 people, just 2.6 per cent of the HNRP target. This includes about 21,000 in Rakhine, more than 12,600 in the Southeast, nearly 24,500 in the Northeast, and almost 13,700 in the Northwest.
- Many of those who were reached received multiple services. More than 91,000 separate consultations were conducted (most people require more than one consultation). A total of almost 26,000 people were supported with health promotion and awareness, 2,000 people with cash assistance to support their travel to receive care and purchase medicines and more than 3,000 people were reached with medicine or medical supplies.
- This reported reach is half the average number of people reached for the initial three quarters of 2023. This stems from funding shortfalls, access restrictions and interconnected reporting and security concerns for organizations. Thus, the reported figures are likely to be an underestimate of progress.

- Cluster partners as well as local health authorities, responded to the increasing trends of AWD in IDP camps in Sittwe.

Gaps & Constraints

- Access constraints and funding gaps remain the primary challenges for the Cluster. As of 30 April, only 2.3 per cent of the required funds for 2024 had been received.
- Cluster partners are operating in complex conditions, providing fragmented coverage without adequate diagnostics and therapeutics and without the benefits of follow up for antenatal and chronic disease care.
- Health partners face daily obstacles including scrutiny at checkpoints, transport restrictions, insecurity, and communication disruptions. Unhindered access to essential and lifesaving healthcare, medicine, and medical supplies is paramount. Barriers must be removed for patient transportation, medicine, medical supplies, and health partners regardless of MOU or registration status.
- The protection of health facilities, health staff, and patients is imperative. During the first quarter of 2024, seven attacks on health facilities have been recorded including the destruction of or damage to six hospitals or clinics providing lifesaving care, according to the WHO Surveillance System for Attacks on Health Care. The security of humanitarian health workers and their access to populations in need must be unequivocally ensured.

Nutrition

Needs

- Nationwide, 2.2 million people are in need of nutrition support in 2024, including more than 363,000 IDPs. Of these, 600,000 have been prioritized for assistance.
- The 2024 HNRP estimates that 18,000 cartons of ready-to-use therapeutic food (RUTF) are needed for the lifesaving treatment of nearly 18,000 cases of severe acute malnutrition (SAM) in 2024. Additionally, 40,000 cartons of ready-to-use supplementary food (RUSF) will be needed for more than 66,000 moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) cases. Providing these supplies is a challenge with limited funding, transportation issues and reduced implementation capacity.
- About 3,000 cartons of RUTF are immediately needed by cluster members across the country, 2,000 of which are urgently required in Rakhine.

Response

- In the first quarter of 2024, the Nutrition Cluster made important progress in providing nutrition services to people in need after significant interruptions, reaching almost 114,000 children and women (18 per cent of the target population) with life-saving curative and preventive nutrition interventions. This compares with about 172,000 people (or 29 per cent) reached in the first quarter last year.
- About 250 children with SAM were provided with therapeutic feeding to begin recovery and more than 1,500 children suffering from MAM received enriched supplementary foods to manage and reverse their condition. While this is an important start, it represents just 1.4 per cent and 2.3 per cent, respectively, of the total people prioritized for each activity. The remainder of those reached received support through screening of acute malnutrition, infant and young child feeding (IYCF) counselling, blanket supplementary feeding program and micronutrients supplementation.
- Through continued coordination, resource mobilization and service delivery, the Nutrition Cluster aims to significantly scale up its reach to vulnerable groups in the coming months of 2024.

Gaps & Constraints

- Of the \$57.7 million required for the nutrition cluster in 2024, a staggering \$57.2 million, or 99 per cent, remains unmet. Mobilizing funds is an urgent priority.
- Major constraints exist in delivering essential nutrition supplies and services to Rakhine, Sagaing, Magway, Chin, Kachin, and northern Shan which have been severely impacted by instability and violence. The difficulty of transporting supplies is affecting reach with many of the access routes damaged or blocked.
- Guarantees of safe passage by all parties are urgently needed to provide nutrition services and to transport nutrition supplies.
- Unreliable internet and phone connections have hampered communication and made coordination with partners difficult.
- Nutrition Cluster partners face risks to their own safety while attempting to serve populations in urgent need of nutritional support.
- Shortages of nutrition therapeutic supplies and supplements are jeopardizing program continuity. While cash-based interventions could enhance nutrition service access, partners confront major hurdles to deliver cash

responses because of limited cash supply in conflict areas, steep service provider fees, and perilous movement of the cash through checkpoints and other barriers.

Protection

Needs

- Nationwide, 12.2 million people are in need of protection assistance, including 2.3 million IDPs. Of all population groups in need, 3 million have been targeted for assistance in 2024.
- In Rakhine, implementation of the conscription law and forced recruitment has been recorded in Sittwe, Kyaukpyu, Buthidaung, and Maungdaw townships. Some young Rakhine people have reportedly moved to AA areas to avoid conscription. There are reports of Rohingya people being coerced into fighting through incentives and threats, fuelling inter-communal tension.
- Early marriage and unsafe migration have been on the rise, especially in rural communities, partly due to the conscription law.
- There is significant need to address the issue of human trafficking and to provide enhanced support to trafficking survivors in Kachin and northern Shan. In the Northwest, Gender-Based Violence (GBV) risk mitigation and responses are urgently needed.
- In Rakhine, reports from partners and monitoring missions have revealed that women and girls have been facing difficulties in purchasing sanitary products as they need to prioritize daily food costs. There is a high demand for sanitary products throughout Rakhine.
- There have been reports of forced recruitment and abduction of frontline workers, including volunteers.
- In Rakhine, key issues include forced recruitment, illegal child migration and smuggling, child labour, grave violations, psychosocial distress, early marriage and illegal detention.
- Landmine and explosive ordnance incidents are now being reported across all states and regions with the exception of Nay Pyi Taw, with a concerning trend of expansion into residential areas, heightening risks for civilians. Moreover, the increased use of improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and increased presence of unexploded ordnance in populated areas have exacerbated the threat to civilian lives.

Response

- During the first quarter of 2024, the Protection Cluster reached almost 291,000 people across Myanmar including nearly 53,000 in Rakhine, nearly 101,000 in the Southeast, some 48,000 in the Northwest, some 70,000 in the Northeast and nearly 19,000 in other areas.
- In the Southeast, Protection partners conducted comprehensive Protection Monitoring activities to assess the situation and needs of vulnerable populations. They identified individuals with specific needs for cash assistance and successfully referred some people to partners for further support. Post-distribution monitoring was carried out for those who received cash assistance to ensure their needs were met effectively. Legal consultations were provided in Kayin and southern Shan, and awareness sessions were conducted to facilitate access to civil documentation. Partners also received training on protection monitoring and the provision of cash assistance, enhancing their capacity to support those in need.
- In the Northeast, in Quarter 1 Protection partners supported more than 6,000 people, including the most vulnerable IDPs in 25 townships in Kachin and northern Shan. Some 500 people were provided with mental health and psychosocial support during the quarter. More than 10,000 people, including IDPs, host community members, returnees and IDPs who have been locally integrated into urban areas were reached through protection awareness raising activities on various topics during the first three months of the year. Partners supported nearly 3,000 people through the provision of legal awareness and legal aid/counselling. At least 106 communities were reached through protection monitoring exercises.
- In Rakhine, Protection partners continued remote monitoring of protection and human rights violations to understand the situation in real-time, ensure delivery of humanitarian responses wherever possible, and support advocacy. The Protection Cluster disseminated common messages on Protection, WASH, Health, and Mine Awareness with communities through other partners.

Child Protection/Mine Action/GBV

- Despite challenges with access and funding, Child Protection partners reached almost 115,000 people with life-saving child protection services during the quarter.
- Essential Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) delivery and victim assistance activities continued across affected states and regions during the first quarter. However, access remains challenging particularly

in Rakhine and Shan. In these locations, partners have been leveraging local volunteers in remote villages to ensure continuous support.

- In the Northeast, through partner organizations, 700 dignity kits were distributed to women and girls in Naunghkio and Hsipaw townships in northern Shan. In Kachin, provision of critical health services continued via partners' static and mobile clinics in Myitkyina, Waingmaw, and Bhamo townships.
- In Rakhine, partners have implemented both GBV prevention and response services on the ground. A GBV partner continues to support cases in response to increased reports of intimate partner violence in northern Rakhine during the first quarter.

Gaps & Constraints

- Quarter 1 data reveals there are still 2.7 million people who had been prioritized for protection assistance in 2024 who have not been reached with any kind of support due to severe underfunding and access restrictions. By the end of Quarter 1 only 10 per cent of the target was reached, compared to 30 per cent last year. Without urgent financial support and expansion of access, Protection Cluster partners will be forced to deprioritize more expensive protection activities, including case management and provision of targeted/specialized support to persons with specific needs/risks, which are important activities for those most exposed to protection threats.
- In the Southeast, despite widespread contamination, village leaders did not allow EORE awareness and information sharing sessions in some areas in fear of retaliation from both parties to the conflict. It has been difficult to carry documents and Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials to the field in some areas, preventing communication with communities. Heavy inspections for such items are being carried out at checkpoints. Overall, there was an increase in the number of checkpoints and tightened security checks when passing through these.
- In Rakhine, ongoing clashes have significantly impacted the humanitarian and protection environment. The SAC has not provided TAs to humanitarian agencies, including local civil society organizations (CSOs), to deliver humanitarian assistance and protection support. Camp management committees or village administrators have interrupted activities in some areas and questioned camp-based staff members on TAs. Telecommunication and internet blockages interrupted protection monitoring and the timely dissemination of community messaging.
- In the Northwest, CSOs are highlighting significant funding gaps specifically for emergency response efforts, resulting in unmet essential requirements amid escalating needs.

GBV

- There is an urgent need to address GBV service gaps in the Southeast, particularly in Kayah and Tanintharyi where a limited number of GBV partners are present. Humanitarian actors there are subject to numerous restrictions; some have even been detained.
- The lack of adequate health services has been a challenge, including in Rakhine, where service providers and commodities are insufficient. This has resulted in scarce services for the clinical management of rape.

Child Protection

- In the Northwest, partners faced increased access restrictions on the delivery of Child Protection services. In some places, it is still difficult to carry supplies, documents, and IEC materials to the field.
- Field staff are often afraid to go to the field for fear of being recruited. Many have started leaving their organizations and migrating to Thailand. Detention of Child Protection actors for extortion purposes and arbitrary arrests have also been reported.

Mine Action

- A key challenge persists in navigating checkpoints with mine awareness IEC materials.
- In response to immediate needs, multi-purpose cash assistance has been provided to landmine victims to facilitate transportation to hospitals and cover medical expenses.
- Mine Action coordination is severely underfunded and this is impacting on the pace of scale-up.

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

Needs

- During the first quarter of 2024, ongoing conflict continued to cause a surge in displacement and destruction of homes, increasing the needs for emergency shelter, NFIs and CCCM support. According to the 2024 HNRP, about 4.3 million people require shelter/NFI/CCCM support, with 1.3 million people prioritized for assistance.
- Due to new conflict in parts of the Northeast, the Cluster observed that displaced communities are seeking to relocate to safer locations including premature return to their village of origin, where they are hosted in communities or some to unplanned settlement sites. According to the Cluster Analysis Report in February, shelter coverage in protracted sites remained low (around 25 per cent), and NFI distributions are decreasing across the Northeast when compared to December 2023 and January 2024.
- In the Southeast, a recent rapid needs analysis in 4 townships in Kayin, Mon and Tanintharyi states, covering more than 10,000 people, indicated significant NFI and shelter needs. In Kayah, 72,000 displaced people in unplanned settlements around host communities need tarpaulins and other items replaced before the monsoon season.
- In the Northwest, most of the 1.5 million people displaced across Chin, Magway, and Sagaing have not received any humanitarian assistance, and need emergency shelter kits and other essential relief items. Strong winds in Chin in late March destroyed more than 2,000 houses in Hakha, Thantlang, Falam, Matupi, Mindat and Kanpetlet townships.
- In Rakhine, the more than 149,000 displaced stateless people who live in camps and the 218,000 IDPs who live in displacement sites need core relief items, access to basic services and cash. The Cluster estimates that 1 out of every 10 individuals who needs humanitarian assistance is a person with a specific need (such as a person with a disability or female head of a household), making these groups especially vulnerable and a priority for assistance.

Response

- During the first quarter of 2024, the Cluster reached almost 331,000 people countrywide, which is 25 per cent of the total HNRP cluster target and the highest proportion of any cluster.
- In the Northeast, cluster assistance reached 110,000 people – 95,000 in Kachin and 15,000 in northern Shan. A total of 39 coordination meetings were held, 274 IDPs were trained on CCCM, 81 people used the complaint/feedback response mechanism, and more than 300 people received support to cover camp running costs in Kachin and northern Shan.
- In the Southeast, cluster partners distributed NFIs to more than 62,000 people. This includes almost 8,000 people in Mon, 1,000 in eastern Bago, 43,000 in Kayah, and 8,000 in Kayin.
- In the Northwest, the Cluster reached almost 52,000 people out of the nearly 332,000 targeted for 2024. This includes more than 5,000 people in Chin, 2,000 in Magway, and 44,000 in Sagaing.
- In Rakhine, almost 107,000 people in Sittwe, Mrauk-U and Buthidaung townships received shelter, NFI and CCCM support. Among those reached, almost 14,000 received shelter-related assistance and nearly 30,000 people received NFIs. About 100,000 people received CCCM support through infrastructure improvement, CCCM awareness sessions, and engagement in feedback mechanisms. More than 2,000 referral cases were addressed.

Gaps & Constraints

- In the first quarter, the Cluster reached a quarter of those prioritized for support and additional funding will be required to maintain this level and reach all those targeted by the end of the year. Major challenges include ongoing conflict, access constraints, concerns for the safety and security of humanitarian workers, restrictions on transportation and movement, telecommunications issues, funding, inflation and limited availability of items in local markets.
- In the Northeast, although 76 per cent of the people targeted in the HNRP have been reached in the first quarter (mostly with NFI and CCCM assistance), there has been a significant gap in assistance to new IDPs and those working to find a more stable shelter solution. Only 4 per cent of shelter reconstruction and less than 1 per cent of shelter repair assistance was covered in Quarter 1.
- In the Southeast, only 13 per cent of the targeted population was reached, mostly with CCCM awareness and capacity development. IDPs across many townships did not receive NFI and shelter assistance due to access restrictions, lack of funding, and safety reasons. This affects more than 900,000 displaced people. IDPs in rented accommodation are informing the Cluster that paying rent in new locations is creating a huge burden

for families at a time when they are not able to generate normal incomes due to interruptions to agriculture and repeated movement.

- In the Northwest, only 16 per cent of the target population was reached with emergency shelter and NFI support. Partners are challenged by access constraints, safety and security risks, increased scrutiny at military checkpoints, and other violations such as intimidation, arbitrary arrest, extortion, harassment and physical violence.
- In Rakhine, 28 per cent of the target population was reached through shelter, NFI and CCCM activities. However, there is a gap in the reconstruction of almost 1,300 long houses in IDP camps, requiring \$10 million to benefit more than 10,000 families. Access to most areas in the State continues to be a major obstacle for the provision of assistance.
- A preparedness analysis for the upcoming rainy season indicates that current pre-positioned stock would only be able to cover needs for 88,000 people in a situation similar to Cyclone Mocha which impacted 3 million people. Immediate funding from the MHF for stock procurement will help but is only a fraction of what is needed.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Needs

- Nationwide, 5.6 million people are in need of WASH support, including almost 3 million IDPs. Of these, 1.7 million have been targeted for assistance in 2024 but this is dependent on receiving the necessary funding and expanded access to conflict affected areas.
- In Rakhine, reports indicate worrying water scarcity in Ponnagyun Township, particularly in Let Way Myin Village where one of the community ponds was contaminated as a result of airstrikes. Other villages in the township are also grappling with water shortages. Although seemingly reducing now, cases of Acute Watery Diarrhoea (AWD) were on the rise during the quarter, exacerbated by the blockage of humanitarian support.
- In Kachin, an inter-cluster assessment indicated an urgent need for latrines and wells for 53 families who are to be relocated to Palana Thazin Myaing ward in Myitkyina Township.
- In northern Shan, more than 146,000 displaced people were in critical need of WASH support during the first quarter of 2024.

Response

- In the first quarter of 2024, WASH Cluster partners reached more than 355,000 people with support nationwide, including nearly 181,000 in Rakhine, more than 38,000 in the Northwest, almost 33,000 in the Northeast and more than 103,000 in the Southeast. Nationwide reach equates to 21 per cent of the cluster's target for 2024.
- In Rakhine, water scarcity response efforts are underway across three displacement sites in Kyauktaw Township, involving water trucking since March and pond refilling. Similar interventions were carried out in Minbya Township in March, with pond filling benefiting 21 villages. The response to AWD is ongoing, led by Health and WASH Cluster partners. In Pauktaw, where there is a large population of IDPs at risk of water scarcity and the response is starting mid-May 2024. This is delayed in comparison to when the response happened last year, due to restrictions in movement between Sittwe and Pauktaw.
- In the Northwest, there was progress in providing safe drinking water, sanitation, and hygiene promotion in the first quarter of 2024. A total of nearly 10,000 people gained access to safe drinking water and domestic water, addressing a crucial need. In addition, almost 4,000 people benefited from functioning excreta disposal services, ensuring proper sanitation facilities for the community. Hygiene promotion efforts reached more than 33,000 people. A handwashing behavior change program successfully engaged more than 12,000 people. Critical WASH supplies were distributed to almost 36,000 people.
- In Kachin, almost 700 newly displaced people gained access to safe drinking water. A total of more than 2,000 newly displaced people accessed functioning excreta disposal services, and nearly 2,500 newly displaced people received key hygiene messages.
- In northern Shan, 25 emergency latrines and fuel assistance for water trucking were provided at 20 IDP sites in Lashio, Kutkai, and Namtu townships. WASH supplies were distributed to almost 2,000 displaced people in Nawnghkio Township. Almost 500 family hygiene kits were distributed in Lashio Township, reaching nearly 2,000 IDPs.
- In the Southeast, WASH assistance was provided to more than 14,000 people through various operations. In southern Shan, nearly 15,000 people from 4,000 households across Taunggyi, Nyaungshwe, and Hopong townships benefitted from WASH supplies.

Gaps & Constraints

- Quarter 1 data reveals there are still 1.3 million people prioritized for assistance in 2024 who have not been reached with any kind of support due to severe underfunding and access restrictions. Immediate funding support and expansion of access for WASH responders is critical.
- As of 10 May, the WASH Cluster has received only 9 per cent of the required funds for 2024, impacting response capabilities across all states and regions.
- In Rakhine, local partner staff have been detained by the MAF due to perceived affiliations with the AA, impacting the ability of WASH partners to reach affected populations. The transportation of WASH NFIs and construction materials between Sittwe and other townships is currently blocked, further hindering response efforts. Fuel shortages have affected critical activities such as water trucking and boating, remote pumping of water supplies, and desludging operations, adding to the complexity of the situation and raising the threat from disease.
- In the Northwest, security checkpoints are impeding the transportation of WASH supplies. In some cases displaced people are not officially recognised and this is hindering aid delivery.
- In Kachin, restricted access is a challenge for conveying supplies to Hpakant, Tanai, Bhamo, Momauk, and Shwegu townships. The closure of the road from Myitkyina to Bhamo due to insecurity has made it impossible to transport WASH supplies to this area.
- In northern Shan, activities for gravity flow pipe water supply systems in relocation sites have been postponed in Kutkai, Namtu, and Hseni townships due to the high risk of landmines. Also, the transportation of WASH supplies to and from Lashio is a challenge due to security checkpoints and access restrictions.
- In the Southeast, funding gaps are threatening ongoing support, while logistics constraints are impeding aid delivery.

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