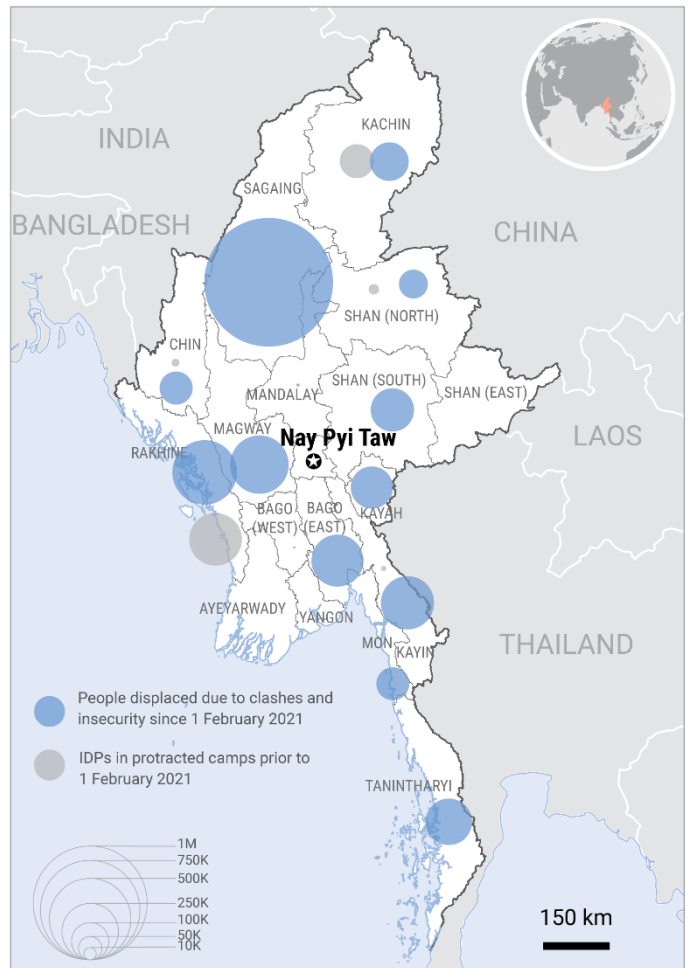


This independent update, covering humanitarian developments up to 15 August, is produced by OCHA Myanmar under its global mandate, in collaboration with the Inter-Cluster Coordination Group and UN agencies. Response figures are based on self-reporting by organizations to clusters. The next humanitarian update will be issued in September 2024.

HIGHLIGHTS & KEY MESSAGES

- Persisting conflict is widespread across the country with a deteriorating situation in northern Shan, Mandalay Region and Rakhine State, driving new displacement.
- Since the end of June, torrential monsoon rains and overflow of various rivers have submerged several states and regions, exacerbating already severe humanitarian needs and affecting an estimated 393,000 people.
- Countrywide, an estimated 3 million people are internally displaced, with many of the newly displaced living without proper shelter amid the monsoon season.
- Conflict continues to intensify in Rakhine State, with a surge in casualties and displacement in Maungdaw Township and reports of increasing people crossing into Bangladesh.
- In northern Shan, a resurgence of fighting since late June, including the reported capture of Lashio, has displaced an estimated 33,000 people from four townships, with civilian casualties and the destruction of numerous homes and structures.
- In Mandalay Region, an escalation of conflict has forced thousands of people to flee their homes from townships north of Mandalay City.
- Humanitarians are working to deliver assistance amid formidable challenges, with increasing violence, restrictions imposed by parties to the conflict, disruptions in telecommunications and internet services, and severe underfunding.
- During the first half of 2024, 2.1 million people were reached with some type of humanitarian assistance across the country out of 5.3 million people targeted, including 1.2 million internally displaced persons (IDPs).
- Eight months into the year, the [2024 Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan \(HNRP\)](#) remains critically underfunded, with only 21.1 per cent of required funding received, according to the [Financial Tracking Service](#). More resources are urgently needed to enable humanitarian partners to respond at-scale to expanding needs.



KEY FIGURES

18.6M

People in need

5.3M

People targeted

2.1M

People reached so far in 2024

21.1% FUNDED

The 2024 HNRP has received \$209.5M against the \$994M appeal.

SITUATION OVERVIEW

Deteriorating humanitarian situation as Myanmar suffers from multiple crises

Humanitarian needs are deepening as the people of Myanmar face manifold threats, enduring widespread conflict, seasonal flooding, outbreak of severe diarrhea and the confirmed presence of cholera in Yangon Region. The continued conflict following the 2021 military takeover has been rapidly expanding to more areas since the October 2023 escalation, driving surging displacement. An estimated 3 million people are internally displaced, with the majority of displaced people living in makeshift shelters or open fields as they bear the brunt of the severe monsoon season.

Several states and regions, particularly in conflict-affected areas, have been facing severe communications disruptions, with telecommunications and internet services being cut off or limited in many locations. Large parts of Chin, Kachin, Kayah, Rakhine, Sagaing and northern Shan have been experiencing a communications blackout for varying periods, caused a wide range of challenges for the population and for humanitarian operations.

Renewed conflict in northern Shan displaces about 33,000 people

In northern Shan, the ceasefire agreement reached in January 2024 has been breached, leading to a new wave of escalation between the Myanmar Armed Forces (MAF) and two members of the Three Brotherhood Alliance (the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDAA) and the Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA)). Since 25 June, intense clashes involving artillery shelling and airstrikes have taken place in Hsipaw, Kyaukme, Lashio and Nawngkhio townships. In Hseni, Kutkai and Laukkaing townships, albeit with no reported fighting, there have been random aerial assaults. The battle for control of Lashio Town, where the MAF Northeastern Command is based, intensified between 3 July and 3 August, causing thousands of people to flee. There were widespread reports that the MNDAA took control of Lashio Town, following intense fighting for one month, and the TNLA took control of Kyaukme and Mongmit townships. Fighting between the MAF and TNLA continues in Hsipaw and Mongmit townships for control of the territory.

The resurgence in fighting since late June has displaced an estimated 33,000 people from Hsipaw, Kyaukme, Lashio and Nawngkhio townships primarily to southern and eastern Shan, and Mandalay Region and resulted in civilian casualties and destruction of numerous homes and structures. Due to fluid population movement, communication issues and the complex security situation, verifying the number of people displaced is challenging. Local partners are providing emergency assistance to affected people, but significant gaps remain in food, drinking water, medicines and other essential relief items.

Situation in northern Rakhine deteriorates as southern Rakhine faces expansion of conflict

More than nine months into the conflict, armed clashes between the MAF and Arakan Army (AA) in Rakhine have continued in several townships in the south and Maungdaw Township in the north, forcing more people to flee their homes. Since 13 November 2023, the ongoing conflict has displaced an estimated 327,000 people in Rakhine State and Paletwa Township in Chin. In addition to those already displaced, this brings the total current estimated displacement in Rakhine State to likely well over 534,000 people.

In northern Rakhine, the security and humanitarian situation in Maungdaw Township is rapidly worsening, with intense fighting for control of the area. The AA has reportedly captured the last MAF base in Maungdaw downtown. The clashes involving airstrikes and shelling have taken place in the downtown area where Rohingya and other ethnic groups live, where the remaining MAF troops and their affiliated armed groups are positioned. On 5 August, artillery shelling and drone attacks allegedly killed approximately 180 people according to reports from the field, mostly Rohingya, near the bank of Naf River while they were attempting to escape hostilities. On the same day, an estimated 20,000 people were reportedly displaced from three downtown Maungdaw wards. From 5 August onward, displaced Rohingya people moved to the coastal area as it was their only available escape route, hoping to reach Bangladesh. There have been reports of some people having crossed into Bangladesh.

In southern Rakhine, fighting has been intense near Thandwe Town since late April. On 17 July, the AA attacked the Western Command bases in Ann Township, with the MAF responding with airstrikes. On 24 July, a bridge on the road of Thandwe-Gwa-Yangon was destroyed to cut the connection with Gwa Township, amid intense clashes in Thandwe Township. Tensions are now high in Gwa, Kyaukpyu and Toungup townships. In Sittwe, the state's capital, about 70 ethnic Rakhine people, including older persons, were arrested in the urban area during door-to-door household checks on 4 August by a team consisting of security forces and township administration officials.

Since the resumption of conflict last November, road and waterway closures continue to hinder humanitarian operations, affecting the movement of supplies both within and outside Rakhine State. In July, a few partners regained access to some areas in Sittwe Town to provide lifesaving assistance such as food, healthcare services and essential

relief items, including to the Rakhine population that has been displaced since mid-June, although delivery of assistance outside Sittwe remains restricted. Two cargo vessels from Yangon arrived in Sittwe in July and relief items, including 1,900 metric tons of rice, basic medicines and micronutrients, went through the clearance process successfully. However, specific items such as solar lights, hygiene kits and newborn kits remain held and the release of these supplies is critical to address urgent needs.

Thousands of people fleeing unprecedented intensification of conflict in Mandalay Region

Since late June, Mandalay Region has seen an unprecedented escalation in fighting between the MAF and a coalition of various armed groups in Madaya, Mogoke, Patheingyi, Pyinoolwin, Singu and Thabeikkyin townships. Shelling and airstrikes have been reported in several townships including in urban areas, resulting in displacement, civilian casualties and property destruction. On 4 August, according to multiple sources, 15 civilians including 2 children died and 19 more sustained serious injuries after airstrikes on 2 villages in Singu Township. Thousands of people from Madaya, Mogoke and Singu townships fled to safer locations, primarily to Mandalay City and neighbouring townships in Sagaing Region, while thousands of people have been stuck in conflict areas due to road blockages. Since the second week of August, armed clashes have also intensified in Myingyan, Natogyi and Taungtha townships. Since 25 June, an estimated 83,000 people have been displaced in nearly 170 displacement sites in 10 townships in Mandalay Region. Verifying the number of people displaced is challenging due to fluid population movement, insecurity and limited telecommunications networks. There has been movement restriction into Mandalay City and the MAF has tightened security measures within the city.

Significant flooding exacerbates the suffering of conflict-affected populations

Since the end of June, torrential monsoon rains and overflow of various rivers have submerged several states and regions from the north to the south of the country. Flooding temporarily affected Kachin State in early July and Magway, Mandalay and Sagaing regions across the Northwest around mid-July. Several townships in Rakhine State have been submerged since the last week of July, although the water level has been receding. Since 25 July, there has been widespread flooding in southeastern Myanmar, with multiple townships being inundated in the states and regions of Bago, Kayah, Kayin, Mon and Tanintharyi. Countrywide, it is estimated that the flooding has affected more than 393,000 people, resulting in the temporary displacement of many families, damages to and disruption of roads, railways and the movement of goods, destruction of paddy fields and livelihoods, and closure of schools. Partners, private donors, host communities, faith-based organizations and authorities from the State Administration Council (SAC) have provided emergency assistance to affected people where possible. To date, at least 178,000 affected people have been reached with emergency assistance. Efforts to deliver emergency assistance to flood-affected people are ongoing. However, there have been challenges with safety and security, limited travel authorizations, disrupted telecommunications and data networks, and banking and cash withdrawal issues.

- In the Southeast, nearly 154,000 people in multiple townships in Kayah, Kayin and Mon states and Bago and Tanintharyi regions have been affected, with many families being relocated to evacuation centers. At the Shan-Kayah border, more than 1,000 acres of paddy fields in Pekon and Loikaw townships have been inundated, affecting food security for the coming year. Nearly 100 schools in Bago Region were submerged and temporarily closed. Flooding with the erosion of riverbanks and landslides destroyed several bridges in Bago Region and Kayin State, which are crucial for local transportation and health and education support.
- In the Northwest, at least 21 townships in Magway, Mandalay and Sagaing regions have been impacted by flooding, with an estimated 200,000 people (including 38,900 IDPs in Sagaing Region) being temporarily evacuated. Some areas remain flooded although water levels have receded.
- In Kachin, approximately 37,000 people in several townships were temporarily evacuated due to the flash flooding on 30 June.
- In Rakhine, flooding has affected low lying areas in Gwa, Thandwe and Toungup townships since 23 July, with an estimated 3,000 people being relocated to evacuation sites, mostly religious buildings. Nearly 30 villages in Minbya and Mrauk-U townships were also flooded, where paddy fields were destroyed and ponds contaminated. Flooding temporarily affected most of the areas, including displacement sites in Kyauktaw, Minbya, Mrauk-U and Ponnagyun townships, with the displaced people being temporarily relocated.

Severe diarrhoea cases

Since the beginning of July, there has been a significant increase in reports of people suffering from severe diarrhoea across multiple townships in the country. On 6 July, the SAC Ministry of Health (MoH) issued an official statement confirming the presence of cholera in Yangon Region based on laboratory testing. According to the SAC ministerial authorities for health, a total of 2,261 hospitalized cases of acute watery diarrhoea (AWD) and 161 hospitalized cases of AWD with severe dehydration were reported from 44 townships in Yangon Region, as of 8 August. Among them, 15 cases died and the cause of the deaths is unknown. The most affected townships were Botahtaung, Dawbon, Hlaingtharyar, Thaketa and Thingangyun. The SAC MoH has sent short messages to mobile phones, warning people of severe diarrhoea, calling on people to take precautionary measures, and encouraging them to seek immediate

medical assistance if needed at the nearest health departments and hospitals. Since early July, the SAC-run daily newspapers have been raising public awareness about symptoms and prevention measures of severe diarrhoea. For now, the situation still largely remains at the containment stage with close monitoring and information sharing crucial to avoid the further spread of cases. During the last week of July, more than 40 severe diarrhoea cases including suspected cases of cholera were identified in IDP camps and villages in Sittwe Township in Rakhine State. Partners have supported health authorities in providing treatment and chlorination and distribution of bleaching powder and water purification tablets in affected locations. However, recent flooding, repeated displacement, lack of access to safe water and hygiene have put the most vulnerable people at risk of contracting severe diarrhoea, which can be lethal within hours if untreated.

2.1 million people reached with humanitarian aid in first half of 2024

Despite facing formidable obstacles, humanitarian partners reached 2.1 million people with critical assistance between 1 January and 30 June 2024, including 1.2 million IDPs. The reach reflects 40 per cent of the overall 2024 HNRP target of 5.3 million people in need. This marks a significant increase from the first quarter, when only 18 per cent was reached, effectively doubling the impact within just one quarter. The clusters with the highest reach include Food Security (870,000 people), Protection (857,000 people), Shelter/NFI/CCCM (817,000 people), and WASH (810,000 people). By mid-year, only 12 per cent of the required funding for the HNRP had been received (this has since risen to 21 per cent). Due to this severe underfunding, many people did not receive the full package of support they needed. An urgent injection of funds is needed for aid organizations to expand the overall reach and provide people more in-depth and regular assistance for the rest of the year.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS BY CLUSTER

CLUSTER	PEOPLE IN NEED	PEOPLE TARGETED	PEOPLE REACHED	WOMEN	% CHILDREN, ADULTS, ELDERLY (<18yrs, 18-59yrs, 60+yrs)	FUNDING REQUIRED (US\$)	FUNDING RECEIVED (US\$) ¹
 EDUCATION	4.5M	1.4M	22% 295K	54%	85% 15% 0%	94M	6% 5.4M
 FOOD SECURITY	12.9M	2.3M	39% 870K	51%	32% 57% 11%	289M	13% 38.6M
 HEALTH	12.1M	2.7M	7% 198K	66%	28% 62% 10%	130M	20% 26M
 NUTRITION	2.2M	0.6M	29% 181K	59%	79% 21% 0%	58M	6% 3.5M
 PROTECTION	12.2M	3M	29% 857K	52%	32% 57% 11%	161M	31% 50M
 General	10.4M	2.8M	11% 291K	52%	32% 57% 11%		
 Child Protection	8M	2.0M	13% 263K	52%	32% 57% 11%		
 Gender Based Violence	8.8M	1.6M	6% 99K	52%	32% 57% 11%		
 Mine Action	5.6M	2.0M	10% 205K	52%	32% 57% 11%		
 SHELTER/NFI/CCCM	4.3M	1.3M	61% 817K	52%	32% 57% 11%	149M	19% 27.8M
 WASH	5.6M	1.7M	48% 810K	51%	37% 55% 8%	106M	19% 20M
 COORDINATION AND COMMON SERVICES						7M	34% 2.4M
 CLUSTER NOT SPECIFIED							22.6M
TOTAL	18.6M	5.3M	40% 2.1M	53%	40% 51% 9%	994M	20% 196.6M

¹ Based on FTS records as of 30 June 2024.

For more information, please visit www.unocha.org | <https://reliefweb.int/country/mmr> | <https://www.facebook.com/OCHAMyanmar>

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

Humanitarian Access

The humanitarian access situation in Myanmar continues to face significant challenges due to increased restrictions from ongoing military operations, violence against humanitarian personnel and assets, and bureaucratic barriers, including the frequent denial of travel authorizations. These impediments critically restrict the ability of humanitarian organizations to deliver lifesaving assistance to those in need.

Intensified clashes between the MAF and various armed groups across regions such as Rakhine, Sagaing, northern and southern Shan, Magway, Chin, Mon, Kayin, and Kachin have forced aid partners to postpone or cancel crucial deliveries. These disruptions affect vital sectors including child protection, education, food security, health, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH). In northern Shan, recent escalations in Lashio Township have severely disrupted humanitarian operations. Following the latest clashes between the MAF and ethnic armed organizations, several international organizations were forced to relocate temporarily from Lashio to Taunggyi for safety reasons; additionally, several national organizations also suspended operations in Lashio Township, impacting the delivery of essential services including health care and food distribution.

Of particular concern are the recent incidents of violence reported in Rakhine State. Over the past two months, aerial bombardment and artillery shelling in two separate townships have resulted in the deaths of three aid workers. Moreover, conflict parties have seized over 1,200 metric tons of relief supplies from an international organization's warehouse and have occupied another organization's field facility for an extended period.

Beyond conflict-related restrictions, aid organizations also contend with increasingly restrictive administrative hurdles. These include refusals of travel authorization requests, heightened scrutiny at security checkpoints, and unexpected road closures, particularly affecting areas like Magway, Mon, Kachin, and northern and southern Shan. Such administrative constraints result in significant delays or postponements of scheduled activities. Additionally, some ethnic armed organizations have begun imposing bureaucratic obstacles on humanitarian actors within their control areas, where many newly displaced individuals reside, further delaying the timely delivery of assistance. In Sittwe Town, a few cargo vessels received authorization to transport essential aid supplies (non-food items, basic medicines, and rice) from Yangon. A limited number of organizations managed to secure authorization to distribute non-food items and operate mobile clinics, though these activities were confined to Sittwe. Despite these efforts, substantial gaps remain in addressing the escalating humanitarian needs.

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 Inter-cluster Coordination Group (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 students, teachers and parents. A total of 556,000 of the people in need are IDPs. Nearly 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.
- The insufficiency of teaching staff across the country remains a key issue since the military takeover. There is a massive need for education materials and resources to recruit, train and pay educators to keep learning spaces open and running.
- The shortage of education infrastructure has increased, largely due to increased attacks that have not only destroyed infrastructure, but also the teaching and learning materials and heightened the sense of insecurity, forcing more children to drop out. There is need for strong advocacy to deter all parties to the conflict from continuing these attacks as well as using education facilities for non-education purposes.

- Financial resources to cover education costs such as transportation and boarding fees are needed, especially among IDP communities that are settled in locations far from schools. Families' inability to secure these resources has led to learners dropping out of school.

Response

- In the first half of 2024, the Cluster provided support to more than 295,000 people nationwide, reaching 22 per cent of the HNRP target. The reach is 41 per cent lower than the same period in 2023, primarily due to escalation in conflict, funding limitations and increased access restrictions.
- Cluster partners provided monthly incentives to more than 1,400 volunteer teachers in Rakhine State, the Southeast, the Northeast and the Northwest to ensure consistent staffing of learning centers across various communities, especially those serving IDPs.
- The Cluster organised capacity-building training for partners in various thematic areas of interest, benefiting more than 3,100 people. Partners provided Early Childhood Care Development training and caregiver orientation in three townships in Mon State.
- Cluster partners supported the class enrolment and school registration of nearly 27,100 students in Rakhine State; established 73 learning spaces and adapted curricula for non-formal education in Magway and Sagaing regions; provided basic literacy and numeracy classes to 179 students in two IDP camps in northern Shan; and provided 141 students with learning materials in Kachin State.

Gaps & Constraints

- Quarter 2 data reveals there are still nearly 1.1 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 more 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 worrying trend of increased attacks on education centers in various parts of the country worsens the education infrastructure and keeps children from attending school out of fear.
- Travel restrictions and frequent roadblocks hinder access to all areas. Recruiting volunteer teachers is becoming increasingly difficult due to safety concerns. The transportation of education supplies is impeded by increasing checkpoints and blocked roads.
- In Rakhine State, nearly all basic education schools are closed in active conflict areas. Additionally, community libraries have closed for security reasons, including airstrikes.
- In Kachin State, flooding has exacerbated the challenges faced by education partners, impacting their operations significantly. The flooding has led to disrupted road access, hindering the delivery of educational supplies and emergency assistance to affected areas.

Food Security

Needs

- According to the 2024 HNRP, emergency food assistance is needed by 12.9 million people, including IDPs, returnees, stateless people and host community members. However, recent food security analysis shows an increase in need to 13.3 million people.
- In the Northwest, more than 320,000 people urgently need food assistance. Additionally, more than 100,000 people in Banmauk, Homalin, Indaw, Kawlin, Kanbalu, Kyunhla, Paungbyin, Pinlebu, Taze, Tigyaing and Yinmarbin townships are receiving minimal humanitarian aid due to limited resources.
- In the Southeast, more than 72,700 people are in urgent need of food assistance. The conflict has disrupted agricultural activities and local economies, resulting in widespread food shortages and reduced access to livelihoods.
- In Rakhine State, humanitarian needs, especially food security, are increasing, with approximately 400,000 people experiencing food gaps. Market operations are only partially functional due to supply shortages in many townships, including Sittwe. Border-based supplies have been limited due to the conflict, further affecting food security. Monsoon season rice cultivation is challenged by mine risks and lack of resources.

Response

- During the first half of 2024, the Cluster reached more than 870,000 people (39 per cent of the HNRP target) with emergency food assistance. Assistance was provided to almost 704,000 displaced people; more than 13,000 people who returned, resettled, and locally integrated; almost 113,000 persons with disabilities; and

more than 153,000 host community members. Additionally, the Cluster provided emergency agriculture and livelihoods assistance to more than 58,000 displaced people (17 per cent of the HNRP target).

- Through various modalities, emergency food assistance reached almost 220,000 people in Sagaing Region, more than 210,000 people Rakhine State, and more than 93,000 people in Kachin State, and emergency agriculture and livelihoods assistance reached more than 34,000 people in Magway Region.

Gaps & Constraints

- Despite the progress made, there are still significant gaps in meeting the needs of those prioritized (1.39 million people). 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 continues to exacerbate food security gaps.
- There is a pressing need for available flexible funding, which will help the Cluster to respond to emerging critical needs within 24-72 hours of a new situation.
- Increased funding is needed to bridge the existing high gaps between needs and response and to ensure the response pipeline is sufficient to support all target populations. Without this, partners may resort to reduced basket sizes and frequency of assistance in order to reach a maximum number of affected people. Additionally, people will increasingly resort to negative coping strategies, especially women and girls, exacerbating the nutritional status for children and pregnant and lactating women.



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.
- There are significant gaps in medicine and medical supplies across all affected areas, as a result of constraints in localized procurement, transportation issues and limited funding.
- Closure of public hospitals has caused significant healthcare gaps in many areas of northern Shan due to an escalation in fighting. The increasing number of IDPs has heightened the demand for medical supplies as there are reported needs for malaria supplies in Kachin State and in the Northwest. Stocks of contingency medical supplies, particularly for treating diarrhea patients, have been low in both the Northeast and Northwest.
- There is a pressing need for healthcare staff, including clinicians and technical assistants, in Rakhine State. Safety and security concerns, along with the high cost of living, have contributed to this shortage. Advocacy for humanitarian health services is crucial in areas controlled by different parties to the conflict for protection of humanitarian workers.
- Routine immunization services are difficult to receive in temporary displacement sites in southern Shan where there are a lot of displaced people from Kayah State.

Response

- By the end of the second quarter of 2024, the Cluster had reached more than 198,000 people, 7.3 percent of the HNRP target. This includes nearly 50,000 each in Rakhine and in the Southeast, close to 70,000 in the Northeast, and more than 28,000 in the Northwest.
- Many of those who were reached received multiple services. Nearly 315,400 separate consultations were conducted (most people required more than one consultation). Health promotion and awareness activities were provided to nearly 75,700 people, crucial medicines and medical supplies to more than 4,400 people, and other assistance to 2,800 people.
- In response to the rising cases of acute watery diarrhea, health partners have delivered essential health assistance to Rakhine and Chin states.

Challenges

- Quarter two achievements were tempered by significant obstacles. This stems from funding shortfalls, access restrictions, interconnected reporting and security concerns for organizations. Reported figures are likely to be an underestimate of progress.
- Due to escalation of conflict, partners in northern Shan have relocated their staff to safer locations and postponed activities. Despite challenges, some partners are still attempting to operate minimally with available resources in certain areas.

- Bureaucratic impediments persist, with high administrative demands including the need for MOUs, registration, and interim approval from the local health departments for every implementation.
- The host community in southern Shan has had to share health resources with IDPs from Kayah State and northern Shan.
- There are limited or no partners in conflict areas in Tanintharyi Region, which might result in a lack of capacity to respond to outbreaks.

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.
- For the rest of 2024, 17,000 units of ready-to-use therapeutic food is urgently needed to support 16,800 severe acute malnutrition (SAM) cases, including for 1,000 SAM cases in Rakhine State.
- The recent flooding in many areas has resulted in outbreaks of acute watery diarrhoea in Rakhine State and Yangon Region. The Nutrition Cluster is working closely with the WASH Cluster to provide prevention measures, ensuring regular screening to identify and refer affected children.

Response

- In the first half of 2024, the Cluster delivered vital nutrition services under difficult operating conditions. More than 1,100 children (6.3 per cent of 18,000 targeted) received SAM treatment.
- Almost 3,900 children and women (6 per cent of the total 66,400 targeted) received assistance for moderate acute malnutrition through provision of enriched supplementary foods.
- Nearly 177,600 pregnant and lactating women (of the 615,252 targeted for preventative response) have been reached, including malnutrition screening, blanket supplementary feeding, infant and young child feeding counselling, and distribution of vital micronutrient powders and tablets.
- To meet the nutrition needs of vulnerable populations, cluster members are utilizing cash voucher assistance to provide a pre-determined food basket to prevent acute malnutrition. More funding is required to support this approach in providing nutrition services.
- Ongoing efforts are focused on expanding assistance to vulnerable groups through sustained coordination, resource mobilization, and service delivery.

Gaps & Constraints

- The achievements of the 2024 HNRP have been hindered by various factors including insufficient funding, bureaucratic constraints and limited access, and unavailability of supplies. A total of \$57.7 million is critically needed to support vulnerable populations.
- Advocacy for the unhindered safe passage of humanitarian personnel and supplies remains a priority.
- Shortages of nutrition therapeutic supplies and supplements are threatening the continuity of programs across the country. In Rakhine State, approximately 40 per cent of identified malnourished cases did not receive the necessary nutrition supplies.
- Access to essential nutrition services is limited, and operational challenges such as security concerns and logistical constraints, as well as unreliable internet and mobile phone connections, have impeded the delivery of essential nutrition supplies and services to affected populations.
- Due to severe access constraints and escalating conflicts, nutrition services have been suspended in multiple states and regions.
- The Cluster continues to face constraints in implementing standard assessment modalities to establish prevalence of acute malnutrition, which helps to quantify needs and gauge response progress.

Protection

Needs

- Nationwide, 12.2 million people are in need of protection assistance, including 2.3 million IDPs. Three million people have been targeted for protection assistance in 2024.
- The conflict-affected population continues to need protection services such as legal aid, child protection, gender-based violence (GBV) case management services, mine risk education and victim assistance, assistance for older people and persons with disabilities, and mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS).

- In the second quarter of 2024, the Cluster recorded that nearly 73,000 civilians (40 per cent children) experienced human rights violations across the country. Significant violations include property destruction, indiscriminate attacks on civilians, and extortion. Arbitrary detention, forced recruitment, early marriage and unsafe migration have been on the rise. The increased risk of forced recruitment and use of child soldiers has been reported in several areas. Sustained advocacy is needed to ensure parties to the conflict abide by international humanitarian law.
- The situation of children across the country remains dire. In addition to grave violations due to conflict, overcrowded living conditions and the psychosocial distress of caregivers gives rise to violence in homes and communities.
- Human trafficking and unsafe migration and the associated protection risks for IDPs have significantly increased. People, including children, seek to flee the violence and the associated risks.
- Landmine and explosive ordnance incidents are being reported across all states and regions. Mine risk is a major protection concern for civilians, including the returnees, in southern Shan and Rakhine State.
- In Rakhine State, Rohingya and Kaman men in IDP camps have been forcibly mobilized, trained and sent to the conflict frontline. Since early 2024, over 30 villages predominantly inhabited by ethnic Rakhine people have been evicted, affecting at least 10,000 people, some of whom are now displaced in Sittwe Town. Humanitarian assistance for displaced people and advocacy for protection of civilians is urgently needed.
- In the Southeast, IDPs have been pressured for premature return. Returnees are facing inadequate shelter, livelihood challenges, and insecurity including landmine contamination and shelling. Support is crucial for those who have been displaced multiple times.
- In the Northeast, an increasing number of IDPs and human rights violations have been reported. New IDPs, returnees and host community members need humanitarian support, including protection assistance.
- In the Northwest, dignity kits and cash and voucher assistance are highly needed among women and girls.

Response

- In the first half of 2024, the Cluster provided protection assistance to more than 857,000 people across the country, which is 29 per cent of the target.
- The Cluster conducted protection mainstreaming training for 460 staff members of partners.
- In Rakhine State, partners continued to deliver protection services and assistance to conflict-affected people, including IDPs in and out of camps.
- In the Southeast, the Cluster established the Case Management Task Force. Partners conducted case management foundational training in Yangon and organized a consultative workshop on protecting trafficking victims and migrants in vulnerable situations in the Southeast. Partners have been strengthening cooperation for trafficking in persons response and safe migration, which includes capacity-building and the provision of technical tools and contextualized guidance.
- In the Northeast, individuals and households were provided with protection support including community awareness raising activities, legal aid and counselling. Some 190 humanitarian staff/service providers were trained on protection-related topics.
- In the Northwest, more than 66,000 people were reached and covered indirectly.

Child Protection/Mine Action/GBV

- Despite access challenges and chronic underfunding, Child Protection partners have reached nearly 262,300 children and caregivers with life-saving child protection interventions.
- In the first half of 2024, Child Protection partners have reached nearly 150,000 people with awareness raising, 91,000 with MHPSS, 7,000 with child protection activities, 10,700 with adolescent programming and 2,100 with case management. Nearly 1,900 people have been involved in capacity building activities.
- Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) delivery and victim assistance activities continued across operational areas.
- GBV partners distributed dignity kits in the following areas: nearly 300 in Rakhine State, 400 in northern Shan, 700 in southern Shan, and 100 in Tanintharyi Region. GBV partners conducted psychosocial support sessions for a community in northern Shan and psychological first aid sessions for new IDPs in Kachin State.
- In the Northwest, where early child marriage is alarmingly on the rise, key messages for Child Protection and GBV were shared among partners and working groups, aiming to strengthen integration and mutual referrals. A new safe house was established and the operation of the Women and Girls Centre continued.
- In Rakhine State, legal consultation through a hotline continued, in addition to in-person GBV response.

- In the Southeast, 75 individuals including 35 children received victim assistance, which includes medication, transportation, basic needs support, psychosocial support, and child protection emergency kits.

Gaps & Constraints

- Quarter 2 data reveals there are still more than 2 million people prioritized for assistance in 2024 who have not been reached with any kind of protection support due to severe underfunding and access restrictions. Without urgent financial support and expansion of access, Protection partners would be forced to deprioritize more expensive protection activities, including case management and provision of targeted/specialized support to persons with specific needs. In case of deprioritizing critical activities, vulnerability will increase among the affected population, resulting in increased protection risks.
- Egregious abuses of human rights may be underreported due to a lack of credible information from the ground and information that is unverifiable.
- In Rakhine State, there has been limited access in Sittwe and Kyaukpyu townships. Communication challenges remain across the state due to lack of phone or internet networks. Prohibition on the importation of medicines and sanitary items has affected women, girls and vulnerable people.
- In the Southeast, the blockage of all transportation routes across the region has affected supply chains, causing shortages of commodities and impacting life-saving service provision, including GBV and other protection services.
- In the Northwest, partners face challenges in providing assistance to those in need and in obtaining exact IDP figures, partly due to the lack of established IDP camps. Significant challenges include access restrictions, which hindered consistent EORE delivery.
- The resource limitations encountered by GBV actors force GBV partners to focus on response services, such as case management, while limiting or stopping GBV prevention services.

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

Needs

- During the second quarter of 2024, escalating conflict, heavy rain and flooding in various parts of Myanmar affected formal and informal settlement sites. According to the 2024 HNRP, about 4.3 million people require shelter/NFI/CCCM support, with 1.3 million people prioritized for assistance.
- In the Northeast, intense armed clashes in several townships in Kachin State have raised urgent humanitarian needs for newly displaced people, such as food, medicines, NFIs and shelter materials.
- In the Southeast, the number of displaced people increased to more than 900,000, with partners identifying needs for shelter and hygiene items.
- In the Northwest, more than 19,400 people in Magway Region and 20,450 people in Sagaing Region urgently need emergency shelter, household items, kitchen kits, hygiene kits, and dignity kits.
- In Rakhine State, the need for essential items and shelter interventions increased due to a surge in displacement and the expansion of affected areas. Newly displaced people need NFIs and hygiene items and access to water.

Response

- During the second quarter of 2024, the Cluster reached more than 817,000 people countrywide, which is 61 per cent of the total HNRP cluster target. Nearly 90 per cent of the people reached are IDPs.
- In the Northeast, cluster assistance reached nearly 190,000 people – 168,000 in Kachin State and 22,000 in northern Shan. This includes shelter assistance to nearly 23,300 people and NFI assistance to 51,400 people. More than 60 coordination meetings were held, 340 IDPs were trained on CCCM, 100 sites received support for camp running costs, and 88,000 IDPs used the complaint/feedback response mechanism.
- In the Southeast, cluster assistance reached nearly 155,000 people, which is 32 per cent of the total HNRP target. This includes nearly 13,000 people in Mon State, 51,800 people in Kayin State, 59,200 people in Kayah State, 13,300 people in Bago Region, 14,200 people in southern Shan and 1,600 people in Tanintharyi Region. More than 86,200 people received NFI assistance and 36,100 people received shelter assistance across the Southeast. In Kayah State and southern Shan, 103 coordination meetings were held and nearly 39,000 people used the complaint/feedback response mechanism.
- In the Northwest, cluster assistance reached 222,000 people, which is 67 per cent of the total HNRP target. This includes nearly 32,500 people in Chin State, 62,100 people in Magway Region and 127,000 people in Sagaing Region. Nearly 38,700 people received shelter assistance, 205,000 people received NFI assistance,

40 sites received support for running costs, and 160 people used the complaint/feedback response mechanism.

- In Rakhine State, cluster assistance reached 243,000 people, which is 37 per cent of the total HNRP. Nearly 44,000 people received shelter assistance and 61,300 people received NFI assistance. More than 4,500 IDPs were trained on CCCM, 26,000 people received awareness session and 13,000 people used the complaint/feedback response mechanism.

Gaps & Constraints

- In the second quarter, the gap for the HNRP stands at nearly 40 per cent. Major challenges include expansion of conflict, collateral damages to private and public properties, access constraints, concerns for increasing scrutiny on humanitarian agencies, the looting of houses of displaced people, and the risk that severe weather poses for IDPs and aid workers. Underfunding has had a significant impact on the operations.
- In the Northeast, multiple checkpoints in Kachin State are hindering cluster partners from passing and local NGOs are restricted from travelling to some locations. The cluster response in the Northeast is concentrated more on soft skills and minimal CCCM assistance. Tangible actions such as shelter repair and reconstruction have had to be deprioritized.
- In the Southeast, the gap for the HNRP target stands at 68 per cent. The response has mainly been on NFIs and emergency shelter. Small-scale CCCM activities were conducted in southern Shan and Kayah states.
- In the Northwest, the gap for the HNRP target stands at 33 per cent. Partners are not able to access several villages due to ongoing conflict. More than 2,000 households who were affected by strong winds and heavy rain in Chin State since April have not been supported for house repairs, as assistance is mainly targeted to IDPs and humanitarian support has been minimal to communities affected by natural hazards.
- In Rakhine State, the gap for the HNRP target stands at 63 per cent. Closures of roads and waterways have interrupted supply chains, and the availability of NFIs and construction materials in local markets is limited. Compared to the previous year, the prices of shelter materials and NFIs have increased by 2-10 times.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Needs

- Countrywide, 5.6 million people are in need of WASH support, including more than 3.5 million IDPs, though needs continue to grow due to disaster and surging displacement. A total of 1.7 million people have been targeted for assistance in 2024.
- The escalation of conflict in Rakhine State, northern Shan and many other parts of Myanmar has caused a significant increase in WASH needs. With large-scale displacement, the Cluster has not been able to meet all needs, especially in southern Rakhine where there are no cluster partners.
- Water scarcity was at its peak during the second quarter, which resulted in acute watery diarrhoea (AWD) outbreaks in some IDP camps and villages in Rakhine State and the Northwest, further complicating and heightening the WASH needs. The displacement in Sittwe Town has increased pressure on the existing WASH facilities during the peak of water scarcity.
- In northern Shan, the Cluster conducted interagency missions to IDP sites in Lashio, Manton, Namtu and Nawngkhio townships in May and found significant WASH needs in both new displacement sites and protracted camps.
- Severe flooding in Kachin State, the Northwest, the Southeast, and Rakhine State has affected thousands of people. WASH infrastructure was damaged, water sources contaminated, and people forced to move to safer areas. In addition to the relocated people needing support, assistance is also needed in their areas of origin to ensure access to safe water and sanitation upon return.

Response

- In the second quarter of 2024, WASH Cluster partners reached 810,000 people with support: 338,000 in Rakhine State, 100,500 in the Northwest, 91,000 in the Northeast and 280,100 in the Southeast.
- In Rakhine State, nearly 46,000 people were reached with water scarcity response efforts in Kyauktaw, Minbya, Mrauk-U, Myebon, Pauktaw, Ponnagyun, and Sittwe townships. This includes water trucking and boating and pond refilling. Partners also conducted distribution of water filters, soap, hygiene kits, pond renovation, dewatering of water points and desludging of latrines.
- In Kachin State, nearly 1,400 new IDPs gained access to safe drinking water, 4,700 received functioning excreta disposal services and 32,200 received key hygiene messages.

- In the Northwest, hygiene items and water purification tablets were distributed to more than 9,000 flood-affected people. The Cluster distributed 2,000 soap bars in Paletwa Township in Chin State in June, when AWD cases increased there. However, a comprehensive response and the movement of supplies was limited due to access issues.

Gaps & Constraints

- Restrictions on the transportation of supplies in Kachin, northern Shan and Rakhine states and the Northwest has complicated the response. Using cash has its own challenges such as liquidity issues and the lack of banks. Local procurement is also being explored where possible.
- Access challenges have impeded humanitarian activities. Some areas in southern Rakhine have no partner presence, leaving the affected people without assistance.
- There was limited information about AWD cases outside Sittwe Township in Rakhine State, which hindered efforts to curtail the outbreak and conduct a targeted response.

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