



Myanmar

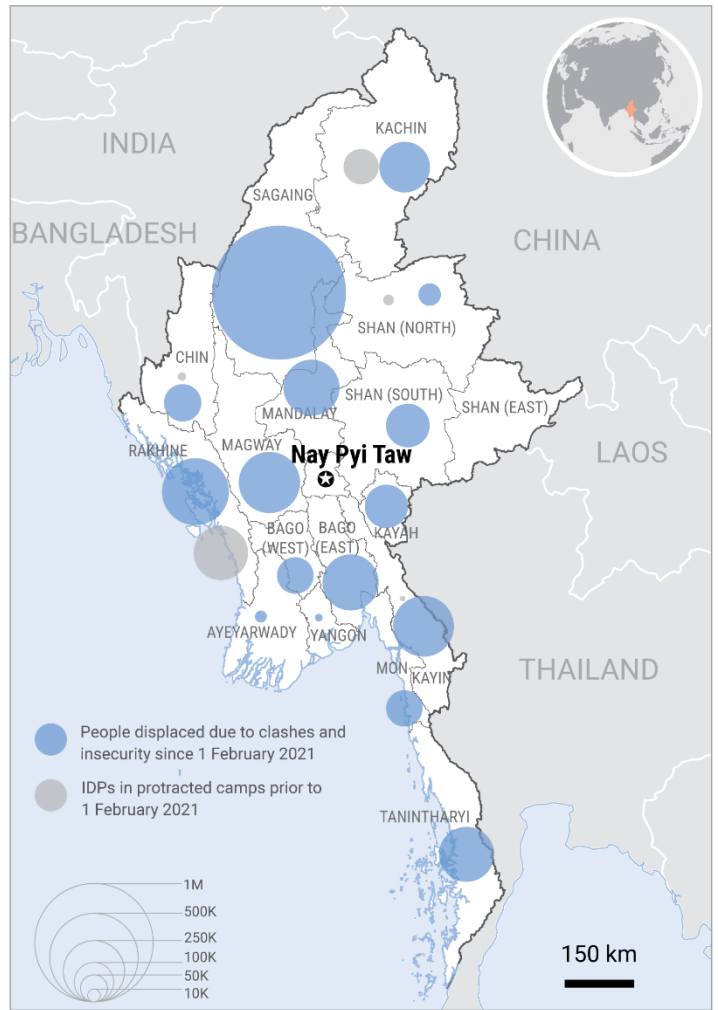
Humanitarian Update No. 48

14 August 2025

This independent update, covering humanitarian developments up to 14 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.

HIGHLIGHTS & KEY MESSAGES

- Myanmar remains in the grips of a compounding crisis, marked with repeated shocks, including devastating conflict and flooding and other disasters that have stripped many of their shelter, livelihoods and sense of safety.
- An estimated 3.6 million people remain internally displaced across Myanmar, as ongoing conflict between the Myanmar Armed Forces (MAF) and various non-state armed groups continues to force civilians to flee their homes, exposing them to serious harm and protection risks.
- Since early July, heavy rains have triggered widespread flooding and landslides across Bago Region and the states of Kayah, Kayin, Kachin, Mon, Rakhine, and Shan, displacing families and damaging homes, roads and other critical infrastructure.
- Humanitarians have reached nearly 1.3 million people affected by the 28 March earthquakes. However, assistance has fallen short in depth, frequency, and quality due to underfunding.
- Funding cuts have forced reductions across all sectors of humanitarian response, leaving vulnerable people in desperate and dangerous situations.
- Despite escalating needs, Myanmar remains one of the world's most underfunded humanitarian operations, with only 12 per cent of required funds disbursed so far for the 2025 Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan (HNRP). Increased funding remains crucial to scaling up life-saving assistance and reaching the most affected communities.



KEY FIGURES

19.9M

People in need in 2025

5.5M

People targeted in 2025

\$1.1B

Required for 2025 HNRP

12% FUNDED

The 2025 HNRP has received \$135.5M against the \$1.1B appeal.

2M

Additional people in need after the earthquakes

1.8M

People targeted for earthquake response (includes HNRP overlap)

\$275M

Required for earthquake response, including early recovery

63.2% FUNDED

Earthquake addendum has received \$173.8M against the \$275M appeal.

SITUATION OVERVIEW

Worsening protection environment in conflict-affected areas

Escalating violence across Myanmar is driving severe protection risks, with civilians increasingly caught in the crossfire. The frequent failure to distinguish between combatants and non-combatants has placed women, men, and children in constant peril. Communities face airstrikes, drone attacks, artillery shelling, forced recruitment and displacement. The use of explosive weapons in populated areas has raised serious protection concerns, with incidents involving significant civilian casualties are reported frequently, particularly in northwestern Myanmar. The conflict is primarily between the Myanmar Armed Forces (MAF) and various non-state armed groups, though clashes also occur between non-state armed groups themselves.

In July, armed clashes between the MAF and a coalition of non-state armed groups forced an estimated 65,000 people from eastern Pekon Township to flee to western Pekon and Nyaungshwe townships in Southern Shan State and Demoso Township in Kayah State. Hostilities across Bago, Kayah, Kayin, Shan and Tanintharyi regions and states resulted in significant civilian casualties, including a drone strike on 5 July that hit a school sheltering displaced people in Kyaukkyi Township, killing six and injuring three. In northwestern Myanmar, intense clashes between two ethnic non-state armed groups in Falam Township in Chin State temporarily displaced an estimated 20,000 people who crossed into India's Mizoram State. Most returned to their places of origin by mid-July. In Sagaing Region, dozens of civilians were reportedly killed or injured when a village monastery sheltering displaced people in Sagaing Township was struck by aerial bombing on 11 July. Continued fighting between the MAF and non-state armed groups — along with aerial strikes, shelling, and military raids — displaced approximately 5,000 people in Wetlet Township in Sagaing Region on 17 July; over 2,000 people in Salin Township in Magway Region on 21 July; and 1,500 people in Mahlaing Township in Mandalay Region on 19 July. Population movements remain fluid, and the exact number of displaced people and their return movements are difficult to verify due to insecurity, communication disruptions and access constraints.

The protection of civilians and civilian infrastructure is a legal obligation under International Humanitarian Law and International Human Rights Law that all parties to the conflict are called upon to uphold. Amid widespread fighting across Myanmar, it is imperative that military targets must be clearly distinguished and civilians protected.

Monsoon floods hit multiple states and regions

Since the pre-monsoon season in late May, rains and river overflows have caused repeated flooding across several regions and states. Flooding has submerged farmland, destroyed crops, killed livestock, and led to substantial livelihood losses for people already affected by conflict. Some areas have been hit by flooding repeatedly. In Rakhine State, an estimated 40,000 people – including displaced persons – in Buthidaung, Kyauktaw, and Minbya townships were severely affected in the first half of July, with 19,000 people temporarily evacuated from Minbya, which was the worst-hit. In late July, over 10,000 people in 4 Rakhine townships were displaced to higher ground due to recurrent flooding. Since 23 July, intensified monsoon rains – exacerbated by the remnants of Typhoon Wipha – triggered severe flooding in the regions and states of Kayah, Kayin, Mon, Rakhine, and Shan, further compounding the already dire humanitarian situation. In Southern Shan State, at least 15 people reportedly died due to flooding and landslides in Pindaya Township. In Bago Region, over 85,000 people have been affected. In Kayin State, more than 30,000 people have been displaced to evacuation centres. In Mon State, flooding has impacted around 6,000 people. In Sagaing Region, early July floods inundated parts of Kale Township, temporarily displacing about 2,000 people and damaging approximately 800 acres of crops. In Kachin State, flash floods on 3 August in Waingmaw Township severely affected several villages and displacement sites – more than 1,000 people were forced to flee and strong currents and landslides reportedly killed 6 people.

Evacuations, relief operations, and assessments are ongoing. Wherever possible, local responders and humanitarian partners continue emergency flood response efforts, distributing food and essential relief items. The 2025–2026 national emergency response preparedness plan, along with zonal contingency plans for all regions, has been shared with partners to strengthen coordination and readiness.

Earthquake response and early recovery efforts

More than four months after two earthquakes struck central Myanmar on 28 March, humanitarian partners have reached nearly 1.3 million people across Mandalay, Nay Pyi Taw, Sagaing, and other affected areas with at least one form of assistance. This represents 72 per cent of the 1.8 million people targeted for aid. But due to underfunding, the assistance has not been at the depth, frequency or quality that was planned, at times forcing humanitarians to prioritize lower-cost

response activities. Some people were reached only once when sustained support is required. Despite these challenges, some form of water, sanitation and hygiene support was provided for 801,000 people; food security assistance for 456,000 people; protection services for 452,000 people; health support for 306,000 people; and shelter and essential relief items for 357,000 people.

Early recovery efforts have gained momentum, with assistance reaching over 95,000 people (more than 30,000 households) to help communities recover and rebuild. The response has focused on restoring equitable access to essential services, supporting resilient livelihoods, and promoting inclusive, community-led recovery. Early recovery activities have included structural and needs assessments, debris removal, rehabilitation of education facilities, distribution of essential household items, and support to agricultural production and market access.

The dire consequences of underfunding

Despite persistent conflict, widespread displacement, and recurrent disasters, the 2025 Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan (HNRP) for Myanmar remains dangerously underfunded. Eight months into the year, the HNRP has received only 12 per cent of the funding required for the humanitarian response, as reported on the Financial Tracking Service. Last year, the HNRP was funded at 21 per cent as of the end of July. Myanmar continues to rank among the world's most underfunded humanitarian operations. For the earthquake response, \$170 million has been disbursed out of the \$275 million requested. As needs continue to rise, the funding gap is stretching response efforts far beyond capacity. Humanitarian partners have been forced to scale back or suspend essential programmes, including food assistance, healthcare, protection, and shelter.

Funding shortfalls have led to the closure of at least 65 health facilities across Myanmar, leaving over 212,000 people without access to healthcare (this figure is based on reports from only 15 of 120 health partners and is likely a significant underrepresentation of the actual scale of impact.) The most severe impacts are in conflict-affected areas, where partners face both funding gaps and attacks on health services. Salaries for health workers have drastically declined, with many now receiving only in-kind payments such as food items. These challenges are severely undermining the reliability and quality of care, putting lives at risk and pushing an already fragile health system closer to collapse. The funding shortages have also limited partners' ability to deliver vital protection services. Critical interventions such as legal protection support, particularly to help individuals fleeing conflict or those affected by the earthquake, to secure or replace essential national identity documents have been scaled down or remain unavailable in many areas. Support for survivors of violence, including landmine and explosive ordnance injuries and gender-based violence, has been significantly reduced or halted. Many children lack the necessary case management and psychosocial care. The funding shortfall has disproportionately affected smaller NGOs, severely weakening localization efforts, protection monitoring, and the implementation of community-based protection initiatives.

Amid these funding cuts, more humanitarian support is urgently needed in Rakhine State, where the combination of conflict, blockades, and underfunding is driving a dramatic rise in hunger and malnutrition. The World Food Programme has reported that in central Rakhine, the number of families not able to afford to meet basic food needs has reached 57 per cent, up from 33 per cent in December of last year. Additionally, the fluid population movements in Rakhine have contributed to a notable rise in waterborne diseases, yet WASH partners, already affected by funding cuts and reduced staffing, are unable to carry out assessments or respond effectively.

From survival to strength: The vital support empowering landmine survivors

With humanitarian needs growing across Myanmar, funding shortfalls are placing serious pressure on partners trying to deliver assistance to people in need. Many organizations are being forced to make difficult decisions about where and how to respond. In this challenging environment, even a single act of support can have a meaningful impact.

Banyar*, a 25-year-old from a location in Pekon, lost his leg in a landmine incident. The injury left him dependent on crutches for nearly a year, struggling with mobility and feeling cut off from daily life. During that period, he focused on self-learning – reading books and improving his computer application skills – though the emotional toll of uncertainty and isolation weighed heavily on him.



His life changed when a local humanitarian organization, with support from the Myanmar Humanitarian Fund (MHF), provided him with a prosthetic leg. That much-needed assistance helped restore not only his physical mobility but also his confidence. He regained a sense of independence and later joined the same organization as a trainee. “I went from feeling useless to realizing I could work, learn and belong,” he said. “With a supportive community around you, there’s no need to lose hope. I’m very thankful to those who helped me walk again.”

Staff who worked closely with Banyar have witnessed the change. “When we first met him, he was determined, but obviously limited by his crutches,” said a team member from the organization. “Now, he’s working with confidence and helping others in similar situations. His story is a reminder of the broader impact our support can have – beyond just the medical needs.”

Landmines and explosive ordnance continue to severely harm civilians and their livelihoods. In 2024, 1,082 casualties were reported across the country, including 165 fatalities. Support from the MHF has enabled partners to provide mine risk education and victim assistance including psychosocial support, prostheses, and livelihoods assistance. But as funding gaps widen, there is growing concern that many of these vital activities may be scaled back. Banyar’s story shows what is possible when support reaches people in time.

**The name has been changed.*

Photo: A survivor shows a prosthetic leg provided by the local humanitarian organization. Credit: Partner

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