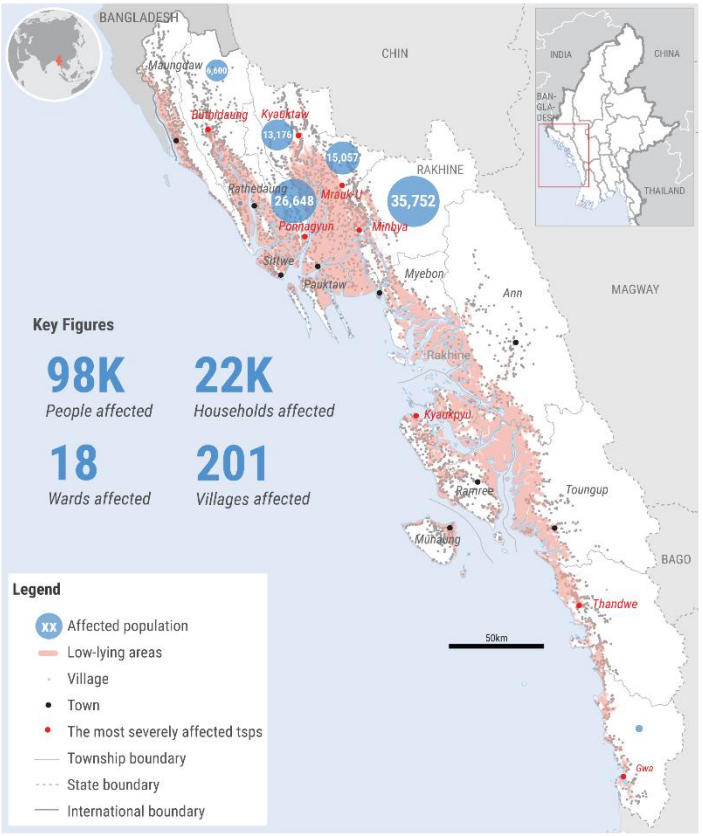
Rakhine State, Western Myanmar
Flood Situation Update No. 1 | 20 July 2026

HIGHLIGHTS

- Flooding has affected an estimated 98,282 people in 22,195 households across 18 wards and 201 villages in Rakhine State, with the highest impact reported in Buthidaung, Kyauktaw, Minbya, Mrauk-U and Ponnagyun townships.
- Floodwaters have receded in most central and southern townships, and affected people who had temporarily evacuated have reportedly returned home, but needs remain significant as damage to houses, bridges, paddy fields and household property continues to affect recovery.
- Flooding began in early July following heavy rainfall and rising river levels, initially affecting low-lying areas in central Rakhine before expanding to other central and northern townships.
- Safe drinking water, sanitation, food assistance, essential relief items, health care, shelter support and early livelihood recovery remain the most urgent priorities, particularly in areas where water sources and sanitation facilities have been contaminated or damaged.
- Humanitarian partners have initiated multi-sector response activities, including WASH, health, food security, multipurpose cash assistance, cash-based relief and emergency shelter support, but the response remains below the scale of assessed needs.
- Access constraints, damaged roads, disrupted communications, limited stocks and incomplete assessments continue to hamper the timely delivery of assistance and the identification of priority gaps.



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Creation date: 20 July 2026 Sources: Humanitarian partners

SITUATION OVERVIEW

Recent flooding across Rakhine State has affected an estimated 98,282 people in 22,195 households across 18 wards and 201 villages, according to information compiled by humanitarian partners as of 17 July. The most affected townships are Buthidaung, Kyauktaw, Minbya, Mrauk-U and Ponnagyun, with additional impacts reported in Gwa, Kyaukpyu, Maungdaw, Rathedaung and Thandwe. Based on current assessments, affected areas have been categorized at village and ward level into highest priority, significant impact and monitored/affected areas to support response prioritization, with some townships appearing in more than one category due to differing flood conditions across locations.

Floodwaters reportedly receded in most central townships on 12 July. In Kyaukpyu and Ramree, water levels also subsided within several hours on the same day, while floodwaters in Gwa and Thandwe decreased on 13 July. Although people who had temporarily evacuated to safer locations have reportedly returned home, the floods have damaged houses, bridges, paddy fields, and household property, leaving many households with urgent needs and reduced capacity to recover. Continued verification of affected population figures, damage and response coverage remains essential as conditions evolve and access allows.

Weather conditions may continue to affect the humanitarian situation in Rakhine State. According to the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology (DMH), isolated heavy rain remained likely in Rakhine following strong monsoon conditions over the Bay of Bengal, with rough seas and squalls possible along the coast. Humanitarian partners should continue to monitor DMH warnings and factor potential rainfall, localized flooding and access disruptions into assessment, distribution and movement planning.

HUMANITARIAN NEEDS

- Access to safe drinking water remains a critical priority, particularly where floodwater has contaminated ponds and other primary water sources. Damaged sanitation infrastructure has increased the risk of waterborne diseases, underscoring the need for emergency water supply, water treatment, hygiene promotion and rehabilitation of sanitation facilities.
- Food assistance and essential relief items have not yet reached all affected communities. Disruptions to local markets, supply chains and transport routes are limiting the availability of food and basic commodities, while many households have lost or damaged household assets.
- Health services remain constrained by access limitations, shortages of essential medicines and reduced mobility. Mobile health services, primary health care, referral support and strengthened disease surveillance are needed to address immediate health risks and prevent outbreaks.
- Early recovery support is urgently needed, particularly for agriculture and livelihoods, given reported damage to paddy fields, cropland, livestock, household property and income sources. Additional joint rapid needs assessments, market assessments and response mapping are required to refine priorities and identify gaps.

ACCESS AND OPERATIONAL CONSTRAINTS

Transportation and communication networks remain disrupted in several affected areas, with damaged and submerged roads restricting access to communities, limiting access to essential services and delaying the delivery of humanitarian assistance. These constraints are also affecting needs assessments, verification of affected population figures and response monitoring.

Limited shelter and NFI stocks, gaps in sectoral coverage and incomplete information on needs continue to constrain response planning and scale-up. Partners are coordinating through area-based coordination structures and technical focal points to verify figures, map ongoing and planned interventions, minimize duplication and identify priority response gaps. Continued information sharing remains critical as operational priorities are refined.

RESPONSE

- Humanitarian partners have initiated emergency WASH interventions, including safe water supply, hygiene promotion and water treatment activities. WASH partners are supporting WASH activities in affected areas.
- Mobile health services and primary health care are being provided by partners, with activities reported in Kyauktaw, including planning of referral services and mobile clinics in collaboration with township health teams in Kyaukpyu and Ramree.
- Food security and multipurpose cash assistance have reached 2,171 households in 55 villages across seven townships. Additional assistance is planned for 2,944 households in Kyauktaw, Minbya, Mrauk-U and Ponnagyun, with plans to provide MPCA for 4,000 flood-affected households in Ramree, Ann and Kyauktaw.
- Cash-based humanitarian assistance has reached 2,280 households, or 8,679 people, across 13 locations in Kyauktaw and Minbya townships, including cash for food and support for water buckets. Emergency shelter capacity remains limited, with only 650 emergency shelter kits available, which is expected to be insufficient to meet current needs.
- Despite ongoing efforts, assistance remains below the scale of needs. Partners are encouraged to continue sharing updated assessment findings, response plans and operational constraints to support coordinated decision-making, response planning and resource mobilization.