

This humanitarian update, covering 1 and 26 November, is produced by OCHA Myanmar in collaboration with Inter-Cluster Coordination Group and wider humanitarian partners. The next update will be issued on or around 30 December 2020.

KEY FIGURES

DISPLACEMENT

105,100 people currently displaced by ongoing conflict in Rakhine and southern Chin

125,000 people in protracted displacement since violence in 2012 in Rakhine

104,000 people in protracted displacement in Kachin and n. Shan

CASUALTIES

6 injured and **3** killed by unexploded ordnance in November in Rakhine State

HUMANITARIAN ACCESS

32 organizations obtained travel authorizations for minimal national staff to carry out limited activities in Rakhine since September

COVID-19 (as of 26 Nov)

83,566 cases countrywide

1,810 fatalities

62,035 recoveries

3,480 cases in Rakhine, including 386 active cases

1,021 other conflict-affected areas

2020 HRP FUNDING

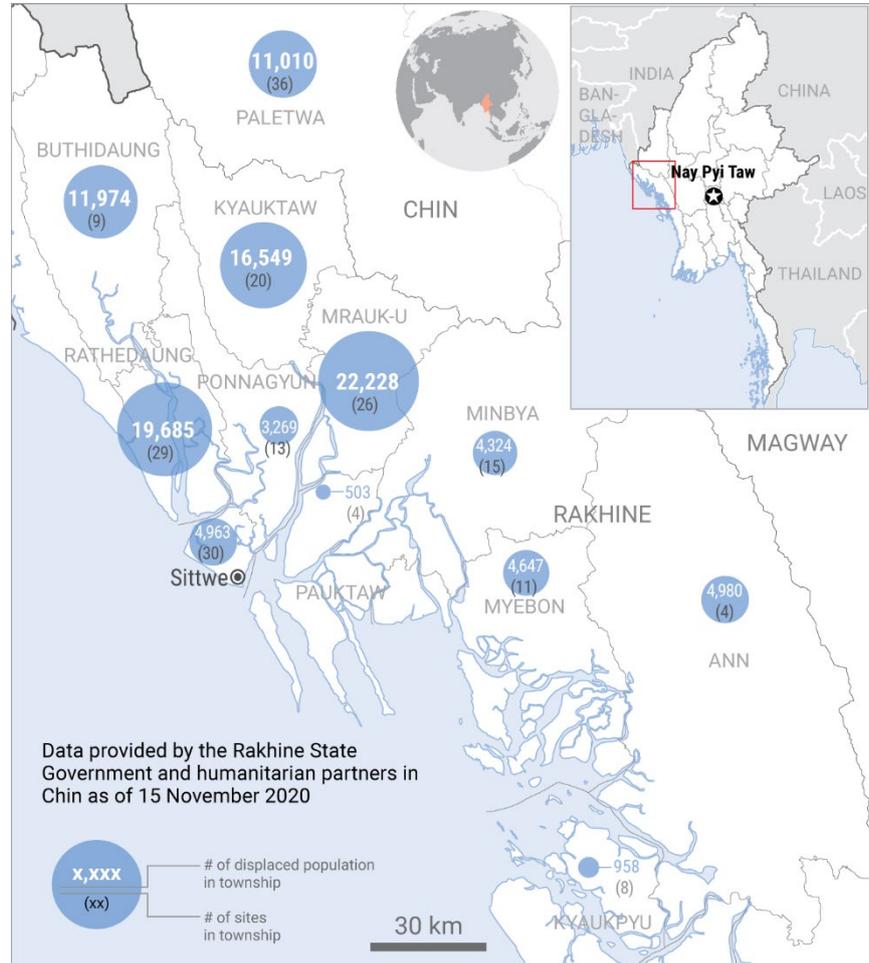
US\$177.4 million received

(64%) against **\$275.3** million requested

MYANMAR HUMANITARIAN FUND

US\$16.7m received

- **\$3.8M** reserve allocation in April
- **\$7.2M** standard allocation in July
- 24 projects under these two allocations by 20 direct partners and 33 sub-partners, targeting over 1 million people
- **\$5M** second allocation is being finalized



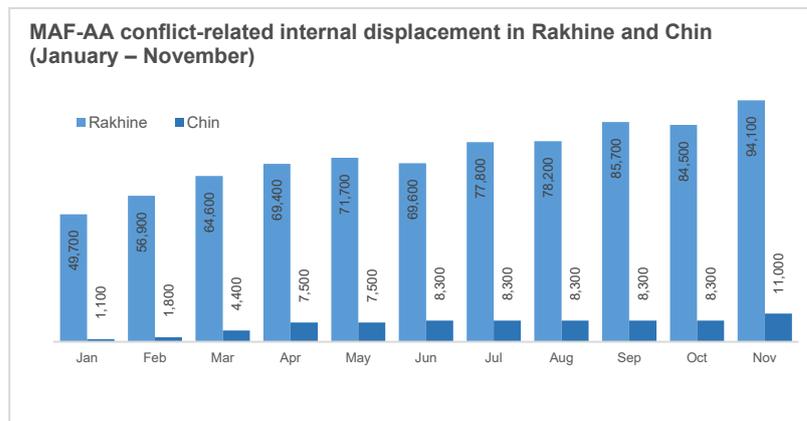
HIGHLIGHTS

- Ongoing conflict between the Myanmar Armed Forces (MAF) and the Arakan Army (AA) continues unabated. The human cost of the conflict is on the rise, with at least six civilians injured and three killed by landmine explosion in Rakhine State in November.
- Population movement remains fluid and over 105,000 civilians are currently displaced due to the ongoing conflict in Rakhine and southern Chin – more than 94,000 of them are in 169 displacement sites in Rakhine, according to the Rakhine State Government.
- In northern Shan, around 300 internally displaced people (IDPs) living in camps have returned to their places of origin since October and more than 1,500 more IDPs plan on returning early 2021.
- The COVID-19 outbreak in the conflict-affected areas continues to impact the delivery of humanitarian operations, especially in Rakhine, where a total of 3,480 cases have been confirmed since March 2020.
- Despite ongoing access constraints, humanitarian actors continue to provide some humanitarian and COVID-19 assistance in camps, displacement sites and villages.
- Only two thirds of the required funds for humanitarian operations under the 2020 Myanmar Humanitarian Response Plan have been received. Continued donor support is needed more than ever to address the complex of needs across all conflict-affected areas.

SITUATION OVERVIEW

INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT IN RAKHINE AND SOUTHERN CHIN ON A STEADY RISE: The conflict between the MAF and AA in Rakhine and southern areas of Chin states, which erupted in January 2019, has continued during the reporting period, with reports of civilian casualties and severe humanitarian impact. Small scale displacements have been reported across several townships in Rakhine State in recent weeks. This includes the displacement of some 2,100 people in 13 villages in Kyaukpyu Township between 2 and 8 November, due to reported presence of MAF soldiers in the area. Similar incidents of population movement were reported in Minbya and Mrauk-U townships between 2 and 22 November, where around 780 people from seven villages reportedly fled from their homes to nearby villages as soldiers increased their presence in the area. Continued hostilities in Ann Township have also reportedly forced some 400 people from two villages to flee to safer areas in Kan Htaunt Gyi town and a displacement site on 11 November. Over a thousand households have also returned to their places of origin in Ann, Kyaukpyu and Ramree townships in November after improvement of the security situation in certain areas. The displacement numbers have been obtained by local sources and cannot be verified due to access challenges.

The overall number of people displaced due to the ongoing conflict has seen a steady rise since January 2020. As of 15 November, 105,090 people were hosted across 205 sites and host communities in Rakhine and southern Chin states. In Rakhine, 87,467 people are currently hosted in 169 sites, while around 6,613 displaced persons are sheltering in some 30 host communities, according to the Rakhine State Government (RSG). In Paletwa Township, which has been the main area of hostilities in southern Chin State, humanitarian partners report that some 11,010 displaced persons remained in 36 sites as of October. The current displacement figures are more than the double the numbers reported in January 2020, when over 49,700 IDPs were hosted in 137 sites in the two states.



CLASHES TEMPORARILY DISPLACE THOUSANDS IN NORTHERN SHAN: In northern Shan, an overall reduction in the frequency and intensity of the conflict has been observed in 2020, even though small-scale clashes were reported among the MAF and ethnic armed organizations. Between 30 September and mid-October 2020, a series of fighting between the MAF and the Restoration Council of Shan State/Shan State Army were reported in Kyaukme Township. Clashes were initially reported along the Lashio-Mandalay highway but quickly extended to the bend of the Namtu River near the Upper Ye Ywa hydro-power construction site. According to local sources, the intensity of the clashes and security operations in the area have resulted in the temporary displacement of more than 4,500 persons (1,300 households) from at least 17 villages in southern areas of Kyaukme Township between 3 and 20 October. Displacements were of a relatively short period, lasting between 6 and 14 days depending on the site. As of 21 October, all IDPs had reportedly returned to their villages of origin. This was the second series of clashes in the area in 2020. About 1,000 people from 10 villages were temporarily displaced in June due to similar clashes in Kyaukme Township.

INCREASING HUMAN COST OF THE CONFLICT IN RAKHINE: Increased reports of civilian casualties due to the conflict in Rakhine remain a major protection of civilians concern. An unexploded ordnance explosion in Maungdaw Township on 17 November killed a child and his parents, and injured six civilians, including four children. Between January and September 2020, at least 13 children have been killed and 56 severely injured due to landmines and unexploded ordnances, with Rakhine State seeing the highest rate of casualties among children, [according to UNICEF](#). On 11 November, public sources have also reported that six civilians, including four children, were injured due to an artillery shelling in Ann Township in Rakhine State. The details of this incident could not be verified due to access and security challenges. Similar high-profile incidents were reported in October. The Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting (CTFMR) [stated concerns](#) over circumstances of two children killed in crossfire in Buthidaung Township on 5 October. On 22 October, [UNICEF published a statement](#) expressing sorrow over the death of a boy, who was reportedly killed due to artillery shelling in Mrauk-U Township. This followed an [incident](#) on 10 September, where two children were killed and one more injured in Myebon Township following an artillery fire.

RETURN AND RESETTLEMENT IN NORTHERN SHAN: Close to 300 IDPs in two camps in Kutkai Township in northern Shan have returned to their places of origin since October. An additional 1,500 IDPs in seven camps in Namkhan, Kutkai and Manton townships, who were displaced between 2013 and 2016, plan to return to their places of origin early 2021, according to the camp management agencies and civil society organizations on the ground. These returns are being facilitated by the camp management agencies and local faith-based organizations. The United Nations is closely coordinating with partners and local governments to support the return and resettlement processes in line with international standards.

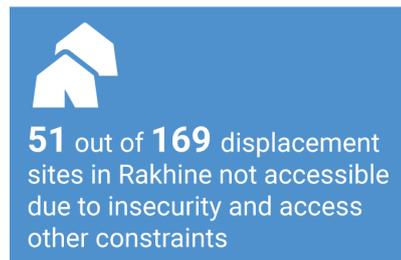


Earlier on 2 November, local sources reported that some 84 people in the Man Loi camp in Kutkai Township displaced in 2016 have also returned to their places of origin due to improved access to livelihoods and a stable security situation. As of 31 August, northern Shan hosted around 10,000 IDPs, who were displaced since the escalation of conflict in 2013.

HUMANITARIAN ACCESS

RAKHINE AND SOUTHERN CHIN: Following the decrease in local transmission of COVID-19 compared to levels reported between August and September¹, there has been a gradual resumption of humanitarian assistance, where humanitarian partners are following strict COVID-19 preventive measures instructed by the Ministry of Health and Sports (MoHS). Although many activities and services have only partially resumed due to restrictions remaining in place.

Since the end of September, a total of 32 humanitarian organizations have obtained Travel Authorizations (TA) in Rakhine for staff members to carry out activities identified as lifesaving by the state government, in IDP camps, displacement sites and villages. The activities include, among others, mobile clinic services, emergency medical referral, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), risk communication and community engagement (RCCE), nutrition and food distribution (see section on humanitarian response for details). In addition, shelter constructions and shelter kits distribution have also been undertaken since October in limited camps and displacement sites. Where required, organizations that have been granted TAs to carry out distribution activities continue to be informed in the TA approval letter to hand over supplies to the Township Management Committees (TMC) and/or Camp Management Committee (CMC). The Rakhine State Government, nonetheless, has allowed 1-2 non-camp-based staff to observe the distribution process.



Despite the increase in number of TA approvals, overall, limited humanitarian access continues to severely impact partners' ability to scale-up humanitarian and COVID-19 response in camps, displacement sites and villages. Some 51 out of 169 displacement sites as well as 17 out of 33 host communities in Rakhine remain inaccessible due to security and other restrictions. Recent inter-cluster rapid assessment suggested that around of half of activities remain partially disrupted and one third fully disrupted despite a gradual resumption of some activities.

KACHIN: Access to assistance and livelihoods in non-government controlled areas (NGCA) in Kachin State deteriorated between September-November, due to additional movement restrictions aimed at controlling the spread of COVID-19. Despite these new challenges, humanitarian organizations were able to deliver essential assistance in the NGCAs.

COVID-19 COUNTRYWIDE: The number of locally transmitted cases and fatalities continues to rise throughout the country, with the highest cases reported in Yangon Region (60,702) followed by Bago Region (4,547) and Rakhine State (3,480) since 23 March. As of 26 November, there have been 83,566 confirmed cases countrywide, including 1,810 fatalities and 62,035 recoveries, resulting from a total of 1,076,382 specimens tested.

COVID-19 IN CONFLICT-AFFECTED AREAS: In Rakhine State, 3,480 cases, including 21 fatalities, have been reported in all 17 townships since 23 March. Sittwe Township accounts for the majority of cases (1,341) followed by Maungdaw (389) and Kyaukpyu (382). In other conflict-affected areas, there have been 93 cases in Chin State, 169 in Kachin State, 515 in Kayin State and 262 cases in Shan State, according to MoHS.

¹ See earlier reports of impact of COVID-19 restrictions on humanitarian assistance and service delivery [here](#).

HUMANITARIAN AND COVID-19 RESPONSE

Despite the access challenges and security constrains, humanitarian organizations continue to provide some humanitarian response and COVID-19 prevention and response measures for vulnerable communities, IDPs as well as returning migrants in coordination with the Government and State-level authorities. Ongoing and planned COVID-19 activities in IDP camps, displacement sites, and camp-like settings by cluster/sector are summarized below.

PROTECTION

RESPONSE

- In Rakhine, child protection partners continued to provide psychosocial support through mobile sessions. Sensitization on trafficking in person and unsafe migration was conducted through megaphones, and through a door-to-door approach in vulnerable and at-risk households, in particular. Partners continued to provide gender-based violence (GBV) services through helplines, including psychosocial support, legal services and remote case management. Some Women and Girls Centers have re-opened to provide individual case management and psychosocial support. Partners have also continued working with Department of Social Welfare to establish a safehouse for women survivors of GBV.
- In northern Shan, Women and Girls centers offered limited case management and survivor support services, while remote monitoring and service provision continued in displacement sites. Over 380 mini dignity kits were delivered in quarantine centers.
- In Kachin, partners provided cash assistance to persons with specific needs to address immediate vulnerabilities and mitigate protection risks. Provision of case management, small-scale psychosocial support, safe house and mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) continued. Partners conducted prevention activities and referral services remotely. A total of 1,950 dignity kits were distributed to girls and women in both government-controlled areas and in areas beyond government control.
- In Kayin and Mon, GBV partners continued to provide integrated services of sexual and reproductive health and rights, GBV and MHPSS, with free legal services made available for GBV survivors. Partners have also distributed a total of 1,000 mini dignity kits to women and girls at the quarantine centers.

GAPS

- A clinic providing care for GBV survivors will close in Kachin due to insufficient funding. Availability of and access to time-sensitive health service will be significantly reduced.
- Delivery of child protection and GBV interventions has been affected due to limited transportation of supplies, unavailability of protective items in local markets, constraints in communication, and movement restrictions resulted from COVID-19 and ongoing insecurity in Rakhine. In addition, GBV life-saving activities are not included in the RSG-defined list of life-saving assistance. This could limit the provision of GBV emergency response.
- Complex procedures and movement restrictions at checkpoints in northern Shan continue to limit the capacity of GBV partners to deliver the services.

WATER, SANITATION, HYGIENE

RESPONSE

- In Rakhine, WASH partners installed 1,300 communal hand washing stations and distributed 73,530 hygiene items in protracted IDP camps. Partners conducted 66 cleaning campaigns in 13 IDP camps and ensured camp population receive COVID-19 related information, education and communication (IEC) materials. In addition, waste bins and communal cleaning kits were distributed in 18 health care facilities. Other WASH interventions continue in camps, displacement sites and villages otherwise affected. In Kachin, sector partners distributed 47,000 soap bars to at least 5,420 families in IDP camps.

GAPS

- The scale of distribution of hygiene items was reduced due to ongoing insecurity in the conflict-affected areas.

EDUCATION

RESPONSE

- Education sector partners are distributing home-based learning materials to children to support their re-engagement in learning, and their mental and emotional wellbeing across the conflict-affected areas.
- Partners continue to coordinate with the Ministry of Education to ensure that displaced and conflict-affected children have access to the programs for home-based learning.

GAPS

- The closure of learning spaces remains one of the most critical gaps. Children not only stagnate in cognitive and social development, but they also lose what they had learned previously. Further, children continue to face limited access to home-based learning materials, especially in remote and conflict-affected areas



HEALTH

RESPONSE

- Across the conflict-affected areas, partners continued their support to MoHS and Ethnic Health Organizations in distributing personal protective equipment (PPE), gloves, infrared thermometers, masks, goggles, gowns, hand sanitizers and soap, chlorine and bleaching powders, pamphlets and posters. In Kachin, Rakhine and northern Shan in particular, partners provided capacity building, psychosocial support, laboratory samples transportation, referral of suspected cases and facilitated the operational costs of quarantine centers. In Rakhine, partners have also supported Thet Kel Pyin hospital with medical supplies and equipment, capacity building and case management. Support on early warning, alert and response system (EWARS) continued in Rakhine and Kachin with over 166,000 patient consultations and 288 notifications of disease outbreaks sent out through online platforms, mobile phone calls and SMS starting since January. Kayin, partners provided financial support for disease surveillance at points of entry/quarantine facilities.

GAPS

- The reduction in frequency of mobile clinics and routine services in operational areas is a major gap, while delivery of medical supplies and equipment remains a challenge in Rakhine due to the access conditions.



SHELTER, NON-FOOD ITEMS, CAMP COORDINATION AND CAMP MANAGEMENT (CCCM)

RESPONSE

- In Rakhine, partners distributed emergency shelter kits and non-food items (NFI) to over 2,670 people in six displacement sites for housing materials. In Kachin and northern Shan, partners continue remote monitoring. In Kachin, a total of 100 sets of NFI were distributed to 100 newly displaced families and over 60 roofing materials to IDP households, with nearly 150 camps/camp-like settings covered so far. The cluster partners have also continued to engage with government officials to clarify data discrepancies in CCCM camp lists.

GAPS

- Limited access to displacement sites and administrative procedures in conducting direct NFI distribution to beneficiaries created additional delays and increased transportation challenges in Rakhine.



NUTRITION

RESPONSE

- In Rakhine, Chin and Kayin, partners distributed essential nutrition supplies and ready-to-use therapeutic food, which benefited over 23,030 children. A total of 210 children with acute malnutrition were treated and a total of 5,770 children and 2,660 pregnant, lactating women have preventive nutrition services. In northern Shan, partners distributed 110 nutrition bowls and 4,000 masks to the vulnerable people. In addition, nearly 2,680 pregnant and lactating women have accessed preventive nutrition services. In Kachin, nutrition partners provided 190 children with nutrition screening and 1,160 pregnant and lactating women with feeding and care counselling.

GAPS

- Resumption of nutrition activities in has been slow due to travel restrictions and quarantine regulations.



FOOD SECURITY

RESPONSE

- Over 500,700 people have received food assistance, while livelihood support has reached at least 66,800 people across the conflict-affected areas. In Chin, partners transported 400 metric tons of food for distribution, while in Kachin, more than 9,770 people, including 320 people with disabilities received food and over 750 people livelihood support.

GAPS

- In Rakhine State, partners face challenges in food distribution due to transportation constraints. Cash transfer programmes were delayed in some areas due to logistics challenges and closure of banks during recent holidays.



LOGISTICS

RESPONSE

- WFP-arranged international relief flight between Kuala Lumpur-Vientiane-Yangon continued operating on a weekly basis during the reporting period. The recently launched Yangon-Sittwe leg continue to ensure movement of humanitarian personnel and good, with one flight on 14 November and another planned for 28 November.

GAPS

- Complex bureaucratic processes and access restrictions hinder transporting relief items from Yangon to Sittwe. The use of waterway from Sittwe to northern parts of Rakhine is currently not permitted.

RESOURCE MOBILAZTION

ONE THIRD OF HRP FUNDING NEEDS UNMET: The 2020 Myanmar Humanitarian Response Plan is currently 64.4 per cent funded with US\$177.4 million received against \$275.3 million requested. The HRP includes a US\$58.8 million COVID-19 Addendum, which received \$39.2 million (67 per cent) thus far. Total funding received for humanitarian action in Myanmar, including funding outside the appeal (US\$93 million received), stands at \$270.5 million, according to [FTS](#). Continued and strengthened donor support is necessary to maintain and scale-up humanitarian and COVID-19 response operations in all IDP camps, displacement sites and conflict-affected areas.

MYANMAR HUMANITARIAN FUND LAUNCHES SECOND STANDARD ALLOCATION: As of 25 November, the Myanmar Humanitarian Fund (MHF) has received \$16.7 million in contributions from 11 donors. A total of 24 projects, including COVID-19 related activities, under two (Reserve and First Standard) allocations are being implemented by 20 direct partners and 33 sub- partners, targeting over 1 million vulnerable people in conflict-affected areas. The second [Standard Allocation](#) of US\$5 million is currently being finalized. The allocation will support humanitarian operations to address urgent and unmet needs in all conflict-affected areas and will mainstream COVID-19 preparedness and response interventions. The allocation is also expected to strengthen inter-agency efforts on a coordinated Protection of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) approach among humanitarian partners in Myanmar.

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