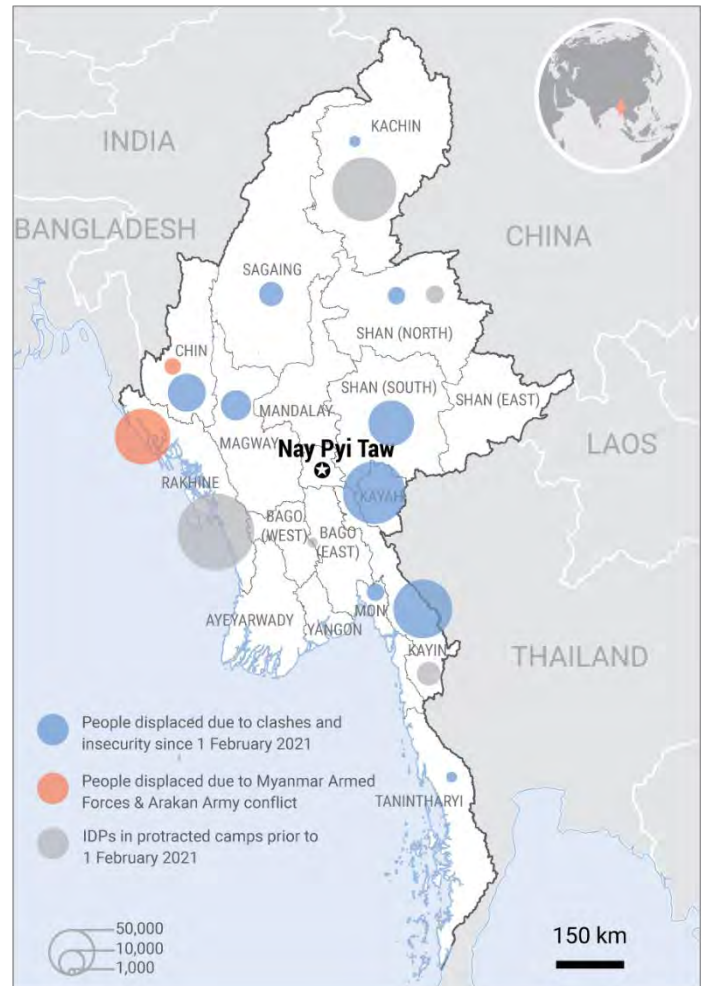


This regular update, covering humanitarian developments from 1 and 31 January, is produced by OCHA Myanmar in collaboration with the Inter-Cluster Coordination Group and UNHCR. The next humanitarian update will be issued in March 2022.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- The security and humanitarian situations across Myanmar have further deteriorated during January with intensified conflict in multiple states and regions, particularly in northwest and southeast Myanmar, resulting in additional loss of life, destruction of civilian property and increasing internal and cross-border displacement.
- As of 31 January, an estimated 441,500 people remained internally displaced across Myanmar due to clashes and insecurity since 1 February 2021. This is in addition to the 370,400 people living in protracted displacement before February 2021.
- Humanitarian actors have continued providing critical life-saving assistance to displaced people and host communities wherever they can, including through local partners amid serious access challenges.
- Preparedness efforts to contain the fourth wave of COVID-19 are ongoing. These include surveillance, case management, infection prevention and control, and Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE).
- An outbreak of acute watery diarrhea (AWD) has been reported in displacement sites hosting those affected by Arakan Army (AA)-Myanmar Armed Forces (MAF) conflict and in Rohingya IDP camps in three townships in Rakhine State. Humanitarian partners have collectively intervened to contain the outbreak and continue monitoring the situation.
- In January, UNOCHA released the [2022 Humanitarian Response Plan \(HRP\)](#), which requests US\$826 million to reach 6.2 million people in need of life-saving humanitarian support.



### KEY FIGURES\*

## 441K

People currently displaced across Myanmar by clashes and insecurity since February 2021

## 370K

People remain internally displaced in Rakhine, Kachin, Chin and Shan due to conflict before February 2021

## 232K

People remain internally displaced in southeast Myanmar due to conflict since February 2021

## 3.5K

Civilian properties, including houses, churches, monasteries and schools burnt down or destroyed since February 2021.

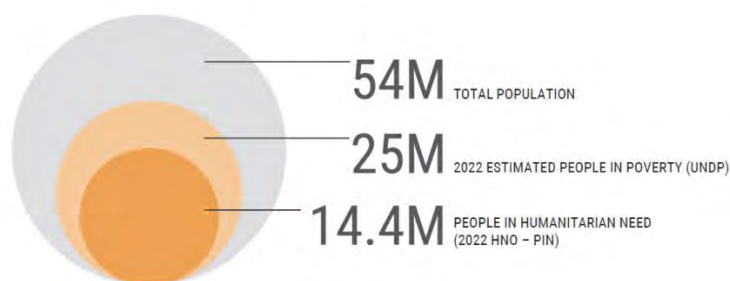
\*Displacement figures fluctuate during any given month. These figures represent the number of people currently displaced. Cumulative numbers for returns and displacement are not always available.

## SITUATION OVERVIEW

A year on from the 1 February 2021 military takeover, the security, humanitarian and human rights situation in Myanmar continues to be dominated by intensified hostilities between the Myanmar Armed Forces (MAF) and various ethnic armed organizations (EAOs), as well as People's Defence Forces (PDFs) across multiple states and regions, with no respite on the horizon. Heightened conflict during January saw loss of civilian lives, destruction of homes and livelihoods, and a surge in internal and cross-border displacement.

Protection of civilians and threats to basic rights remain a grave concern for the humanitarian community among escalating tensions. According to OHCHR, the violence that has ensued and spread across the country since February 2021 has claimed the lives of at least 1,500<sup>1</sup> people, including men, women, boys and girls, and many have been injured or maimed. Of the total, more than 114 were children under 18 years old, including at least 18 children in January alone.<sup>2</sup> Furthermore, between 1 January and 31 December 2021, UNICEF reports that 169 landmine and explosive remnant of war (ERW) incidents in which 88 civilians, including 19 women and 19 children, were killed and another 196 people, including 33 women and 55 children, were injured.<sup>3</sup>

A year of unprecedented violence has driven desperate need in new areas and has further compounded the humanitarian situation for those already displaced and suffering. According to UNHCR,<sup>4</sup> 441,500 people remain internally displaced across the country due to violence and insecurity since February 2021. This recent displacement has already exceeded the number of displaced people in Rakhine, Chin, Shan and Kachin states from conflicts prior to the military takeover (370,400 IDPs). As of 31 January 2022, more than 3,500 houses, churches, monasteries, schools, and markets had been either burnt down or destroyed, mainly in Chin and Kayah states and Sagaing and Magway regions.<sup>5</sup> The humanitarian needs of displaced people as well as host communities are escalating and include food, shelter and relief items, as well as access to life-saving services, including health and education. As a result of conflict and the political crisis, as well as the COVID-19 pandemic, poverty has surged. UNDP projects that nearly half of Myanmar's 54 million people – some 25 million people – are in poverty heading into 2022. The International Labour Organization (ILO) estimates that in 2021, only 18.9 million women and men were employed, which is 1.6 million (8 per cent) fewer than in 2020.<sup>6</sup> Food insecurity is rising because of increasing poverty. More than 13 million people are now in moderate or severe food insecurity across the country with concerning implications for malnutrition in 2022.



In January, on behalf of the humanitarian community in Myanmar, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), published the [2022 Humanitarian Response Plan \(HRP\)](#), which requests US\$826 million for UN agencies, international and local NGOs to reach 6.2 million people in need of life-saving humanitarian support.

<sup>1</sup> OHCHR, Myanmar: One year into the coup, Bachelet urges governments and businesses to heed voices of the people, intensify pressure on the military, 28 January 2022

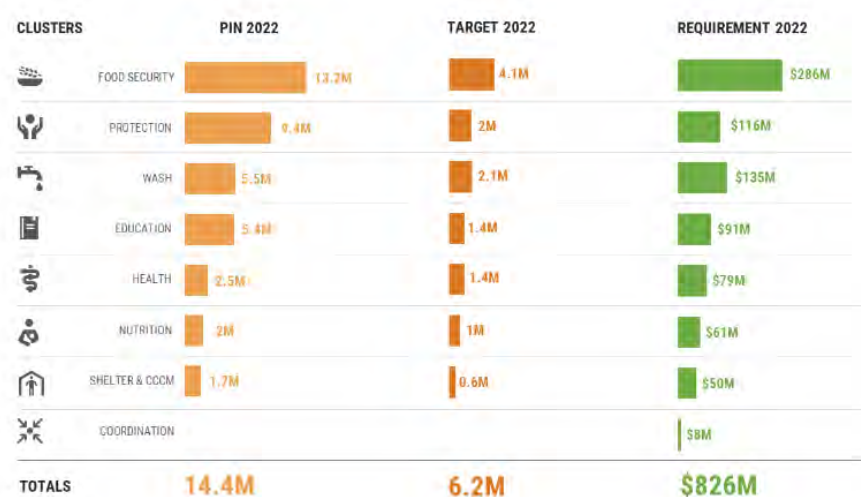
<sup>2</sup> UNICEF, statement during the Noon Briefing in NY, 7 Feb 2022; humanitarian situation report, January 2022.

<sup>3</sup> UNICEF, Landmines/ERW Incidents Information, 2021

<sup>4</sup> UNHCR data, as of 31 January 2021

<sup>5</sup> OCHA's data on Sagaing/Magway/Chin and Karenni Human Rights Group (KHRG) on Kayah.

<sup>6</sup> ILO, Employment in Myanmar in 2021: A Rapid Assessment, January 2022



Humanitarians need to be able to physically get help to people in need. Access is currently extremely limited and bureaucratic, delaying the delivery of assistance and prolonging people's suffering. As recently noted by the Spokesperson of the UN Secretary-General, the "multiple vulnerabilities of all people across Myanmar and its regional implications require an urgent response. Access to people in need is critically important for the United Nations and partners to continue to deliver on the

ground." He also added that "[a]rmed forces and all stakeholders must respect human rights and fundamental freedoms."<sup>7</sup>

Quicker, simplified and predictable access processes and assurances of aid worker safety are urgently needed for a humanitarian response of this size, allowing local, national and international organizations to support people in need. Visa, banking, registration and MOU blockages remain major obstacles to effective response and must urgently be resolved.

Donors are urged to give generously, in solidarity with the people of Myanmar to save lives and protect hard-fought development gains while there is still a window to do so. Identifying and engaging additional local partners will also be critical to delivering more assistance to more people in hard-to-reach and under-served locations.

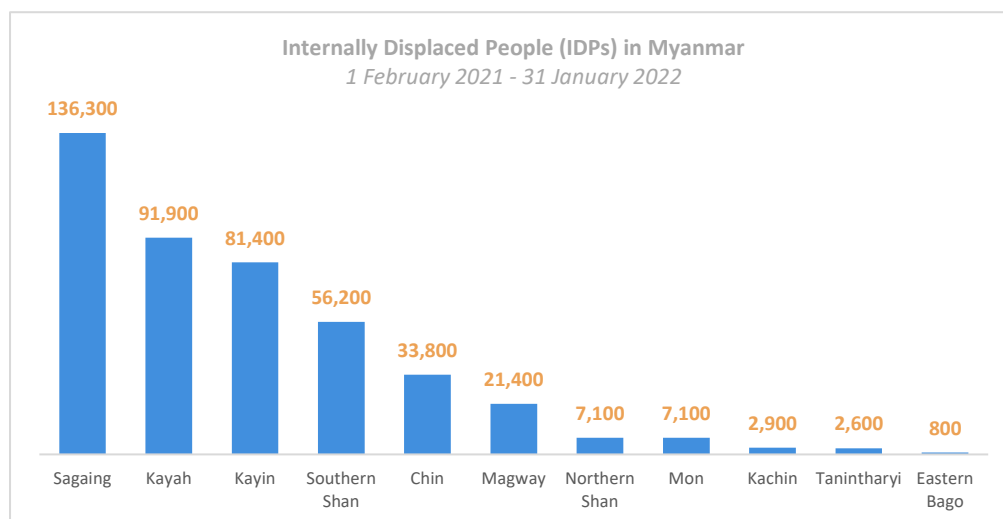
## **DISPLACEMENT ON THE RISE NATIONWIDE**

According to the latest UNHCR figures,<sup>8</sup> as of 31 January 2022, displacement has reached a new high of approximately 441,500 internally displaced people (IDPs) since the military takeover. This includes 240,000 IDPs across the south-eastern parts of the country, which is hosting the highest number of IDPs with 91,900 people in Kayah, 81,400 people in Kayin, 56,200 people in southern Shan, 7,100 people in Mon, 2,600 people in Tanintharyi and 800 people in eastern Bago. Meanwhile, in the northwest, 191,500 people, including women and children, are now displaced in Chin State, Magway and Sagaing regions. Another 7,100 IDPs are in northern Shan and 2,900 IDPs in Kachin state in the northeast of Myanmar. During January alone, there was a surge in displacement with over 100,000 displaced people due to intensification of armed clashes, in particular northwest and southeast Myanmar.

This is in addition to the 370,400 people, who remain in protracted displacement in Rakhine, Chin, Shan and Kachin states due to conflicts prior to February 2021. It brings the total number of IDPs across Myanmar to approximately 811,900, as of end of January 2022. Furthermore, the ongoing armed clashes have pushed thousands of people to seek refuge in neighbouring countries, including Thailand and India. Some have since returned to Myanmar. As of end of January 2022, UNHCR estimates that about 15,000 people remain in India and Thailand.

<sup>7</sup> Statement attributable to the Spokesperson for the Secretary-General on Myanmar, 30 January

<sup>8</sup> Myanmar UNHCR displacement overview, 31 January 2022



IDPs have been staying in various locations including informal displacement sites, formal IDP camps, with host communities or have been sheltering in forests or the jungle. Their humanitarian needs are growing and including food, drinking water, shelter and relief items and basic services, in terms of health, water and sanitation and education. Other non-displaced but affected people, especially those in host communities, are also in need of humanitarian assistance due to the conflict,

COVID-19 and economic stress. While humanitarian needs continue to grow, humanitarian access remains extremely restricted due to bureaucratic blockages, conflict, and increased military checkpoints. Local responders are working to provide critical assistance to their communities where they can. However, wider access and assistance is required to respond to the scale of escalating humanitarian needs.

During the past few months, limited numbers of IDPs have returned to their places of origin in several states in search of livelihoods opportunities, particularly in areas where the security situation has improved. During January, approximately 10,000 IDPs in Shan State have returned to their places of origin and about 4,600 IDPs displaced within Kayin and to southern Shan, have returned to their places of origin. In Kachin State, approximately 250 IDPs who were hosted in Mohnyin town have returned to their original N Loi Gahtwang Resettlement Village in Mohnyin township; and more than 90 IDPs who were hosted in a church and a school have returned to their Gar Rai Yang village of origin in Waingmaw township. In Rakhine State, some 1,926 people who were displaced in sites in four townships (Kyauktaw, Myebon, Rathedaung and Sittwe) during the AA-MAF conflict, have returned to their places of origin. In the northwest, about 850 people have returned to their village of origin in Kani township in Sagaing region after they were displaced for nearly two weeks.

## **INTENSIFIED FIGHTING IN KAYAH AND KAYIN STATES**

The security and humanitarian situation remained volatile across southeast Myanmar due to ongoing hostilities, mainly in Kayah and Kayin states during January. These hostilities resulted in new internal and cross-border displacement and civilian casualties and have further exacerbated the already fragile humanitarian situation.

From early January, fighting in Kayah State intensified between the MAF and the aligned forces of the Karenni Nationalities Defence Force (KNDF), local PDFs and Karenni Army (KA), mainly in Demoso, Hpruso, Loikaw and Shadaw townships, including the use of aerial bombardment. Various sources<sup>9</sup> reported that Demoso, Hpruso, and Loikaw townships have been experiencing cuts in electricity and telecommunication services for the past months. According to UNHCR, 80 per cent of the population of Loikaw city had been displaced as of mid-January<sup>10</sup>. They reportedly fled their homes and sought refuge in other areas within the same townships or in neighbouring southern Shan (mainly in Hsiseng, Mawkmai, Nyaungshwe, Pekon, Pinlaung and Taunggyi townships). The majority (60 per cent) are staying in host communities while smaller numbers are sheltering in collective centres or churches or are in the jungle. Approximately 900 people crossed the border into Mae Hong Son in Thailand but have since returned to Myanmar. As of 31 January 2022, 91,900 people remain internally displaced in Kayah State since the February 2021 military takeover.

In Kayin State, fighting started in mid-December 2021 between the MAF and allied forces of the Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA), splinter group of Democratic Karen Benevolent Army (DKBA) and the Karen National Defence Organisation (KNDO) in Lay Kay Kaw Town in Myawaddy township, and has spread to Kawkareik, Hpapun, and Hpa-

<sup>9</sup> Myanmar Now, Thai Enquirer, CASS,

<sup>10</sup> UNHCR, 17 January 2022

An townships. Heavy shelling, airstrikes and the use of landmines has been reported throughout January and roadblocks were erected in many areas.

Consequently, an estimated 29,300 people across Kayah State were displaced during January, bringing the total number of people who remain internally displaced in the state since February 2021 to 81,400. In addition, thousands have fled their homes and crossed the border into Tak Province in Thailand. Most have since returned to Myanmar and are currently residing in informal displacement sites in Myawaddy township along the Thaung Yin/Moei River across from the Thailand border. As of 31 January, an estimated 600 people remained on the Thai border.

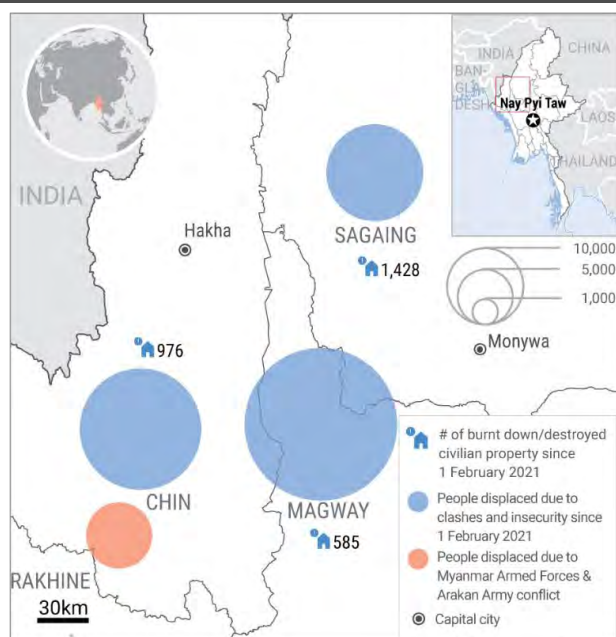
## CASE STUDY

Khu Rel (name changed) is a mother of five children from Moso village in Hpruso township in Kayah State. On Christmas eve 2021, she and her family were forced to flee to a neighbouring village amid armed clashes between the Military Armed Forces and armed groups. They were only able to take a small amount of food with them when they left and relied on donations from their host community to eat. "When our village was bombarded, many food items, including rice, were ruined. I only managed to take a few food items; I took my five children and sought refuge in a nearby village," Khu Rel said.

The family was soon forced to flee for a second time when their temporary refuge was, once again, subject to airstrikes. A local Civil Society Organization (CSO) has been supporting those displaced to the area since January 2022, but Khu Rel remains frightened about her situation telling local aid workers... "This village is poor and I am not sure if we can stay.....We need food and other basic items. I fear that it would be difficult to get food or any assistance in the coming weeks."

IDPs in both states are in urgent need of humanitarian assistance and protection services. Local partners have been providing critical assistance, including food, water, and relief items (NFIs) where possible. Access challenges and security for national staff of UN agencies, NGOs and CSOs/Community Based Organizations in Kayah remain a serious concern. Nearly all NGO and UN partners have moved their operations from Loikaw township to Taungyii township in southern Shan. The majority of national staff have relocated or are displaced themselves. Some limited partner activities are occurring in Hpruso and Demoso townships. Currently, access is possible to several displacement sites in southern Shan and some IDP sites in the western parts of Demoso, Kayah State. In Kayin, humanitarian access remains limited, hindering the provision of humanitarian assistance. People who crossed the border from Kayin into Thailand have received some humanitarian assistance through CSOs/CBOs that are based in Thailand.

## DESTRUCTION OF CIVILIAN PROPERTY ON THE RISE IN NORTHWEST



Armed clashes across Chin state, Sagaing and Magway regions have continued during January, further exacerbating the already serious security, humanitarian, and human rights situation in these parts of Myanmar.

In Sagaing region, ongoing hostilities between the MAF and local PDFs were reported along with airstrikes and bombardment in nearly half of Sagaing's 37 townships, resulting in destruction of civilian properties and displacement, according to local partners. Entire villages in different townships fled their homes and temporarily sought refuge in forests. Further displacement and military presence were also reported in multiple townships in Magway Region,<sup>11</sup> and there have also been clashes in some areas.<sup>12</sup> Armed clashes were also reported across all townships in Chin State in January. As a result, an estimated 59,475 people were displaced in northwest Myanmar during January: 58,000 people in Sagaing, 1,300 people in Magway and around 175 people in Chin State.

<sup>11</sup> Myaing, Gangaw, Natmauk, Pauk, Mindon, Yesagyo, Saw townships

<sup>12</sup> Myaing, Gangaw, Mindon and Saw townships

Overall, as of 31 January, an estimated 191,500 people remain displaced in Chin State, Sagaing, and Magway regions since 1 May 2021: more than 70 per cent (136,300) of these IDPs were recorded in Sagaing; some 33,800 people remain in displacement sites in Chin state largely due to the presence of MAF in some villages of origin and fear of further clashes between Chinland Defence Forces (CDF) and the MAF; and in Magway region, 21,400 people remain in the displacement sites in Gangaw, Saw, Pauk, and Natmauk townships.

In addition to the fighting, destruction of civilian properties has also continued in several townships across Chin State, and Sagaing and Magway regions during January, pushing more people to flee. In many of these incidents, entire villages were forced to go temporarily into the forest for safety. Of particular concern is the scale of destruction that happened in Pale township, where nearly 260 out of the 265 houses in Mwayt Ton village and more than one-third (300 of 800) of the houses in Pan village were reportedly burnt down during the ongoing hostilities in the area between 30 January and early February 2022. Around 4,660 people from both villages were displaced into the forest and nearby villages. In Wetlet township, also in Sagaing, houses and other properties were reportedly destroyed in nine different villages. Destruction and burning of property were reported in two townships in Chin State<sup>13</sup> and five townships<sup>14</sup> in Magway region during January. In total, it is estimated that 1,275 houses were burned down across Chin State, Magway, and Sagaing regions in January 2022. In total, since 1 February 2021, at least 2,929 houses have either been burned down or destroyed in the northwest of Myanmar.

Humanitarian access to people in need in conflict areas across Chin State and Magway, and Sagaing regions remains severely restricted. Local partners have been providing basic assistance to newly displaced people and host communities where possible however, IDPs and host communities continue to face shortages of food, warm clothes, relief items and COVID-19 preventive supplies due to the fighting and restrictions on transportation. Authorizations have only been given to access the displacement sites in the urban areas of Mindat township in Chin state, since May 2021. Efforts are being made to seek access to rural areas of Mindat and other conflict-affected townships.

### **ACUTE WATERY DIARRHEA (AWD) OUTBREAK IN RAKHINE**

During January, an outbreak of AWD has been reported in sites for IDPs from the AA-MAF conflict and in Rohingya IDP camps across Kyauktaw, Pauktaw and Sittwe townships. As of 9 February, a total of 686 AWD cases have been detected across these three townships, of which 385 cases were in Sittwe camps. According to the Early Warning Response System (EWARS), most of the cases are among children under five years.

Since the outbreak, WHO and its health partners, in collaboration with the local health authorities, have been providing medical treatment to patients in mobile clinics that were established in the respective areas, and continue to closely monitor the situation on the ground through surveillance activities. In parallel, partners have distributed aqua tabs, hygiene kits and oral rehydration salts (ORS). They have also been testing the quality of the water in the infected areas, disinfecting latrines and other water and sanitation facilities in the IDPs camps, replenishing the affected ponds with river water, cleaning filters to minimize clogging and activating an environmental cleaning campaign. Health education messages in line with the township health department guidance were distributed in the infected areas and hygiene awareness raising sessions were given to the concerned population.

Limited access to quality health care services and adequate hygiene facilities compounds health risks among IDPs and is resulting in regular outbreaks of AWD, primarily impacting children under the age of five with serious consequences for their nutrition status. Many IDP camps and villages in Rakhine face flooding every year. Continued AWD cases will exacerbate humanitarian needs and ultimately require more resources to be deployed by the already strained health system. COVID-19 related restrictions have resulted in unmet water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) needs in conflict-affected areas, including Rakhine, with residual impacts for 2022.<sup>15</sup> Due to the difficulty around obtaining travel authorization approvals, many WASH partners cannot access the AWD-affected villages to respond.

<sup>13</sup> Thantlang and Tedim townships

<sup>14</sup> Yesagy, Myaing, Gangaq, Natmauk, Pauk townships

<sup>15</sup> [Myanmar 2022 Humanitarian Needs Overview](#)

## HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE HIGHLIGHTS

### Education in Emergencies

#### Needs:

- The rate of attendance in schools run by the de facto authorities remains low (less than 50 per cent, according to EiE's estimate) across the country due to parents' reluctance to send children to these schools, a lack of teachers and safety risks.
- Access to education and resumptions of essential school-based services (school feeding, WASH, health services and protection referrals services, including mental health and psychosocial support, gender-based violence, abuse, etc.) are urgent needs.
- There is a need for alternative learning solutions (i.e., training for parents, caregivers and communities and materials to help them provide some learning activities to children on the move) in the southeast and northwest due to cyclical displacement.

#### Response:

- Across the country, innovative approaches, including provision of home-based learning and self-study or open learning materials on a large scale are being adopted to ensure continuous learning given the lack of teachers, politicization of education, conflict and violence.
- The Education Cluster is finalizing its three-year Strategy including further consultation with its partners, UNESCO and the International Institute for Education Planning (IIEP) on their Joint Response Framework (JRF).
- In Rakhine, partners distributed education kits to more than 2,290 students in 36 displacement sites in Buthidaung and Rathedaung townships.

#### Gaps & Constraints:

- Education Cluster response activities and monitoring are being hindered by delays and denials of TAs, especially in Rakhine, Chin and Kayah states.
- Disruptions in the banking system across the country are impeding the payment of teacher salaries and partners for their activities.

### Food Security

#### Needs:

- In northern Shan, displaced families in four temporary displacement sites in Kyaukme township need food assistance.
- In the northwest and southeast, IDPs, particularly children and pregnant and breastfeeding mothers, need improved access to food assistance.
- IDPs in conflict areas are increasingly concerned about rising poverty due to the lack of livelihood opportunities.
- Around 7,500 vulnerable people in Paingkyon town in Hlaingbwe township in Kayin need urgent food assistance.

#### Response:

- In northern Shan, partners reached more than 1,000 displaced people in four temporary displacement sites in Kyaukme Township with food and cash assistance.
- In the southeast, humanitarian actors sustained delivery of critical assistance despite the volatile security situation and delays with TAs.
- Partners provided food assistance to 700 IDPs in Loikaw township.
- In the northwest, partners provided 5,820 IDPs in Hakha township, Chin State with cash-for-food assistance to cover needs for six weeks.
- Partners provided 29,100 vulnerable families in 3 townships across Magway Region with cash-for-food assistance to support a nutritional emergency developing there.
- In Ayeyarwaddy Region, partners provided fortified rice to 17,000 vulnerable people, including mothers and children, to reduce anemia and keep them healthy.

#### Gaps & Constraints:

- In the southeast and northwest of the country, provision of life-saving assistance and services faced challenges due to active conflict, insecurity, the presence of checkpoints, interrupted banking services and internet blackouts.
- In Kayah, the need for food assistance is growing due to a surge in displacement.

### Health

#### Needs:

- Preparedness efforts for the fourth wave of COVID-19 are urgently needed.

- Vulnerable people across the country require urgent primary health care services, including sexual and reproductive, maternal, newborn, adolescent and child health; emergency health care for victims of conflict, landmines and ERW and other injuries; COVID-19 prevention and treatment; and continuity of treatment for HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and non-communicable diseases such as diabetes and hypertension.
- Improved humanitarian access is urgently needed to ensure vulnerable and displaced people in all conflict-affected areas have access to critical health care services.
- Cases of AWD detected in IDP sites in Rakhine in January (see above).

**Response:**

- Preparedness efforts are underway for the spread of the COVID-19 omicron variant, including surveillance, case management, infection prevention and control and Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE).
- In northern Shan, partners provided health care services and COVID-19 preventive gears to more than 1,000 people in four temporary displacement sites in Kyaukme Township.
- Health cluster members continued to provide essential health care services to conflict-affected people in Chin, Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Rakhine, Shan, Magway and Sagaing.
- As outlined above, Health and WASH cluster partners, in collaboration with local health authorities, have been closely monitoring the AWD outbreak in Rakhine. Partners continued surveillance activities, established mobile clinics to provide treatment and expanded education messaging in the respective townships.
- In Sagaing, health cluster members trained about 300 volunteers on management of diarrhoea and pneumonia.
- Cluster partners are working to install oxygen generating systems to treat COVID-19 patients in Kayah and southern Shan, as well as in Sagaing.

**Gaps & Constraints:**

- Limited availability of public health services requires more resources for cluster partners to provide life-saving services
- Bureaucratic challenges around the importation of essential medical supplies.
- Persistent humanitarian access constraints are hindering the delivery of life-saving health care services particularly in Kayah and Rakhine.

**Nutrition****Needs:**

- There is a gap in the provision of multiple micronutrients and Vitamin A supplementation for mothers and children living in northern Shan due to availability of staff.
- Continuation of a robust referral support system for malnourished children is crucial to ensuring early treatment and avoiding adverse outcomes from preventable causes.
- Preventive nutrition responses need to be strengthened through nutrition promotion activities and behavior change communication.
- In Rakhine, people with moderate acute malnutrition (MAM), pregnant and lactating women (PLW) and some malnourished children from remote, hard-to-reach and under-served areas were unable to access nutrition service centers due to unaffordable transportation charges.

**Response:**

- In northern Shan, children and PLW in four townships received nutrition supplements, including high-energy fortified biscuits and Vitamin A capsules.
- UNICEF supported partners with more than 6,500 communication materials such as pamphlets, flip charts, and posters to disseminate messages on nutrition and behavior change through mobile services.
- In Rakhine, most partners continue to provide critical nutrition services for vulnerable children and PLW. UNICEF provided 15,000 mid-upper arm circumference (MUAC) measuring tapes to 4 implementing partners to increase screening activities in communities. This will support an expansion of service delivery, early identification of cases, and referral of children to save lives.
- UNICEF and partners are expanding critical nutrition services in hard-to-reach, remote and under-served areas of Rakhine.
- In Rathedaung township in Rakhine, partners distributed 40,000 posters and pamphlets to raise awareness about COVID-19 among vulnerable people in IDP sites and villages.
- About 20 participants from 10 nutrition agencies participated in the Rakhine Nutrition Cluster Virtual Coordination meeting in January.
- In the southeast, about 20 partner organizations were trained on assessment forms in the Kobo Collect Tool and the 4Ws matrix to enhance capacity in efficient data collection and near real-time reporting.

**Gaps & Constraints:**

- There is an unmet need for trained personnel to deliver nutrition services and technical guidance in northern Shan.



- Access to some villages and temporary displacement sites in Hsipaw, Kyaukme and Monekoe townships in northern Shan remains limited due to the volatile security situation.
- In the southeast, partners face challenges in providing nutrition assistance and services due to limited resources and challenges in transporting supplies to the affected areas.

## Protection

### Needs:

- About 270 civilians were killed or injured by landmines and explosive remnants of war (ERW) in 2021; Shan State recorded the highest number of incidents (UNICEF). This figure is likely to be under-reported due to challenges of collecting data.
- Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) is vital for displaced people and host communities in conflict-affected areas. There is also an urgent need to clear explosive hazards in conflict-affected areas.
- Conflict Protection and Preparedness (CPP) actions for affected communities are urgently needed due to escalating conflict across the country.
- Ongoing reports were received of child recruitment by armed organisations in the northwest and southeast during January, as well as reports of arbitrary and unlawful detentions of children entering via the Bangladesh-Myanmar border into Rakhine and in other states.
- Women and girls in displacement sites in Hsipaw and Muse townships in northern Shan and Lawsawk township in southern Shan are in urgent need of dignity and clean delivery kits.

### Response:

- In northern Shan, Mine Action partners gained access to newly established camps hosting 500 IDPs and are updating EORE tools to reflect increased use of improvised explosive devices in the area. A conflict sensitivity assessment will be conducted prior to testing of and production of the materials.
- In the northwest, Child Protection (CP) teams collaborated with local partners to provide case management services across nine townships in Chin, with services expanded in four townships in Sagaing.
- In the southeast, particularly in Kayah, response team conducted a CP session for children and adults in IDP camps and raised awareness about the Convention on the Rights of the Child in coordination with local partners. They distributed 200 CP kits to newly displaced people in Pinlaung and Hsiseng townships through a local partner.
- Gender-Based Violence (GBV) partners provided displaced women and girls in nine townships in Rakhine and Shan with 2,100 dignity kits and 40 clean delivery kits.
- In Kachin, 60 dignity kits were pre-positioned in Women and Girls Centres in Bhamo and Myitkyina townships for GBV survivors and vulnerable women and girls.
- In Kayin, the GBV working group coordinated the distribution of 1,200 dignity kits in Kawkareik, Myawaddy and Thandaunggyi townships
- In the southeast, GBV partners finalised referral pathways for southern Shan and Kayah; GBV service mapping for Chin is still ongoing.
- UNICEF, Karuna Mission Social Solidarity (KMSS) and UNFPA conducted a training session on GBV and referral services as well as Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) for five Chin CSOs.
- Centre for Social Integrity (SCI) and Humanity & Inclusion (HI) conducted a training for local partners that aims at enhancing their capacity in provision of timely and quality services to children in camps and host communities.
- Child Protection partners including CSOs, and volunteers were trained in level 1 and 2 mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS), GBV and referral mechanisms.

### Gaps & Constraints:

- Protection partners are facing access constraints due to challenges related to renewal of MoUs, TAs and COVID-19 related restrictions, particularly in northern Rakhine.
- Some MA AoR partners are facing difficulties with limited funding, forcing them to withdraw from different locations. To date, partners have been providing vital cash assistance for medical treatment and temporary support to survivors of landmines/ERWs and their families, but funding is currently insufficient for this to continue at scale.
- Roadblocks and checkpoints in Kayah State are delaying the provision of assistance to IDPs across the southeast and southern Shan.
- Some local partners have been displaced with their communities in Kayah State which has raised challenges in the distribution of life-saving assistance and protection services to IDPs. Most of the GBV partners' staff in Kayah were relocated to Taunggyi and other townships in southern Shan and to west Demoso due to the recent escalation of armed conflict in Kayah. This has resulted in suspension of most of the services provided by Kayah GBV working group members. Currently, the transportation of Emergency Kits (i.e., Dignity Kits, Clean Delivery Kits) into Kayah State is very restricted.

- In southern Shan, displacement sites are widely scattered across different townships, slowing the pace of information collection and provision of much-needed responses. Access and transportation of relief items to IDP communities in Mone Koe area in Muse township is very limited and challenging due to frequent armed clashes. This has resulted in food shortages among IDPs

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

### Needs:

- In central Rakhine, about 600 longhouses in 3 townships, sheltering more than 25,000 Rohingya people, need urgent renovation.
- Shelter needs in new displacement sites in Kyaukme and Mongkoe in northern Shan are growing.
- In Kachin, an estimated 2,000 people, including returned IDPs, need shelters and essential relief items.

### Response:

- In northern Shan, the cluster is coordinating with partners to address shelter needs. In parallel, partners provided more than 1,000 IDPs in four temporary displacement sites in Kyaukme Township with relief items. Partners have been arranging logistics and procurement processes to deliver critical assistance to more than 10,000 families in displacement sites and IDP camps in Rakhine in the first half of 2022.
- Camp Management Agencies continued to provide recreational and community-centred activities, including awareness raising activities to about 130,000 Rohingya people in January.
- Camp Coordination and Camp Management partners continued to monitor the services provided by site focal points in displacement sites and IDP camps hosting more than 47,000 people.
- In the southeast, emergency response coordination has been strengthened in January and an ad-hoc information management system was established to monitor response activities.
- Two thirds of humanitarian actors are providing multi-sectoral responses in Kayah and southern Shan.
- Partners reached 48,000 displaced people in 6 townships in Kayah and southern Shan with relief items between November 2021 and January 2022. More than 32,000 people, mainly from Demoso, Hpruso, Loikaw and Pekon townships received shelter assistance.
- In Kayin, partners have access to 100 villages across 4 townships and 60 per cent of partners are providing a multi-sectoral response. About 4,500 people, mainly from Hpa-an and Hlaingbwe townships received shelter assistance and relief items between November 2021 and January 2022.

### Gaps & Constraints:

- In Kachin and northern Shan, construction of new shelters (70 kitchens and 30 communal halls) and other planned renovation work were hindered due to armed conflict and insecurity.
- Land issues and obstruction of humanitarian assistance by the landlords in Rakhine.
- Safety and consistent access to people in need remains the most significant challenge in the southeast.

## Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

### Needs:

- Newly displaced people, sheltering in Shan State are in urgent need of WASH services.
- Better strategic information management is needed in the southeast. Partners have observed response delays and overlaps in the provision of relief items due to the reluctance of some aid agencies operating at the field level to share information.
- People in displacement sites in Rakhine have inadequate access to WASH services. According to the WASH monthly 3Ws Gap Analysis, more than 20 per cent of displacement sites need safe water, 40 per cent have gaps in sanitation facilities and 96 per cent need hygiene items.
- WASH services are urgently needed due to water shortage in Kyauktaw and Pauktaw townships in Rakhine, where cases of AWD were detected in early January.

### Response:

- The WASH cluster continues to coordinate with local CSOs to address needs and gaps in new displacement sites in Shan State.
- The WASH cluster has been conducting bilateral meetings with partners to improve information management on needs and responses among partner organizations to avoid duplication and overlap of WASH activities.
- The WASH cluster, in coordination with partners and local CSOs, continues to provide critical WASH services in the northwest despite the volatile security situation.
- WASH agencies provided 1,700 IDPs in new displacement sites in Hsipaw, Kyaukme and Muse townships in northern Shan with emergency WASH support, including construction of emergency latrine units and handwashing stations, provision of basic hygiene and dignity items, as well as COVID-19 preventive items.
- WASH cluster partners, in close coordination with health partners and local health authorities, have undertaken several actions to contain the AWD outbreak in Rakhine by replenishing the affected ponds with river water, cleaning of filters to minimize clogging, testing the quality of water and distributing hygiene kits with support from UNICEF.

- Cluster members provided about 50,000 people in 8 townships in central Rakhine with water filters, purification tablets, hygiene kits, and hygiene promotion sessions.
- About 36,000 people in 7 townships in Chin received hygiene kits and awareness messages on hygienic behaviors.
- Two local and international NGOs have been providing NFIs and Hygiene Kits to IDPs in Hlaingbwe township in Kayin State.
- In Kachin, cluster members provided 4,000 IDPs in Bhamo and N' Ja Yung townships with family hygiene kits, drinking water and constructed emergency latrines.
- The WASH cluster conducted a training on “hygiene promotion in emergency” for partners in January.

**Gaps & Constraints:**

- Access remains a key challenge for humanitarian actors in the southeast and northern Shan due to active armed conflict and insecurity.
- Humanitarian operations in the northwest of Myanmar have been delayed due to issues related to TAs, roadblocks and insecurity.
- In Rakhine, some WASH partners continue to face challenges in gaining TAs due to expired MoUs. In addition, a lack of available cash is hindering the cluster’s response.
- In Kachin, provision of hygiene kits in areas controlled by EAOs has been delayed due to a lack of supplies in local markets. Three agencies are trying to purchase and transport supplies from Myitkyina township.
- WASH hardware services have also been delayed due to increased prices of construction materials.

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