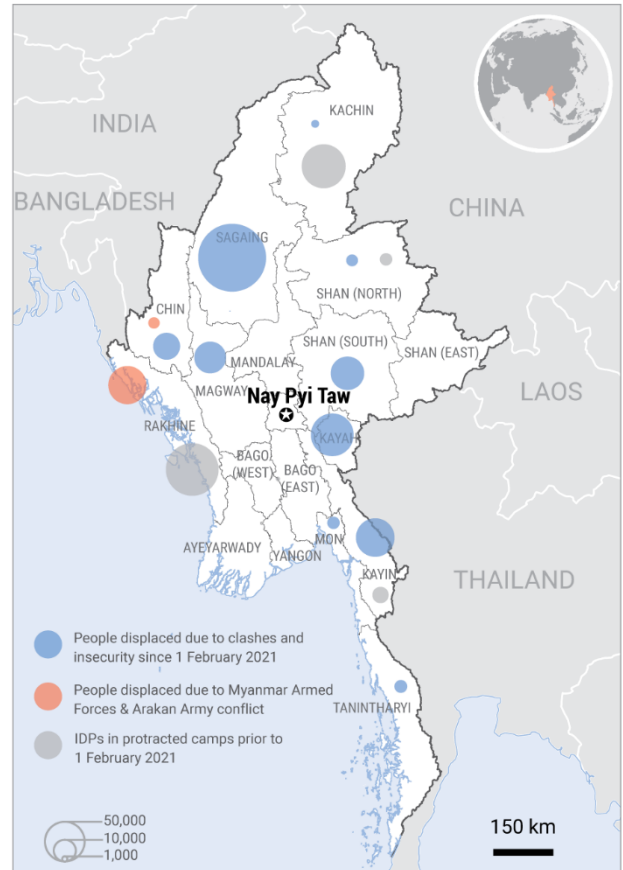


This regular update, covering humanitarian developments up to 12 April, is produced by OCHA Myanmar in collaboration with the Inter-Cluster Coordination Group and UN agencies. The next humanitarian update will be issued in May 2022.

HIGHLIGHTS & KEY MESSAGES

- Across Myanmar, as of 11 April, 912,700 men, women and children remain displaced. This includes 566,100 people displaced by the conflict and insecurity since the military takeover in February last year. For the first time, displacement in the northwest has exceeded 300,000 people.
- Humanitarians continue providing critical life-saving assistance to displaced people and host communities wherever they can, including through local partners in the face of serious access constraints.
- Increasing challenges are being reported by clusters around roadblocks and checkpoints, transportation of supplies and incomplete coverage by local partners in several conflict areas.
- Despite access challenges and funding shortfalls, food security partners have reached 1.4 million people with life-saving assistance – a quarter of the Cluster’s target for 2022.
- The Nutrition Cluster is facing pipeline breaks for both preventative and therapeutic nutrition supplies as early as June.
- Amid escalating dangers from landmines and explosive ordnance in conflict areas, clusters have agreed to scale-up mainstreaming of risk education across all sectors.
- There remains high risk of transmission of acute watery diarrhoea (AWD) in protracted IDP camps in Rakhine amid significant WASH gaps, as well as reliance on water trucking, and potentially boating, at the peak of the dry season in some areas.
- Shelter repair gaps in Rakhine’s IDP camps are a significant concern heading into the monsoon season with more than 550 longhouses, sheltering more than 28,000 IDPs, considered structurally unsound and in urgent need of reconstruction.
- Preparedness plans are being updated ahead of the rainy season to ensure a timely and efficient response in the event of an emergency in high-risk areas.
- Funding for the [2022 Humanitarian Response Plan \(HRP\)](#), which requests US\$826 million to reach 6.2 million people in need of life-saving support, is critical. Only 5 per cent (\$37.2 million) of required funds have been received at the end of the first quarter of 2022 (FTS). All clusters are underfunded, which impedes their ability to respond to the growing needs and gaps in response.



KEY FIGURES*

912K

People internally displaced across Myanmar

566K

People currently displaced by clashes and insecurity since February 2021

346K

People internally displaced mainly in Rakhine, Kachin, Chin, and Shan due to conflict prior to February 2021

8K

Civilian properties estimated burnt or destroyed since February 2021.¹

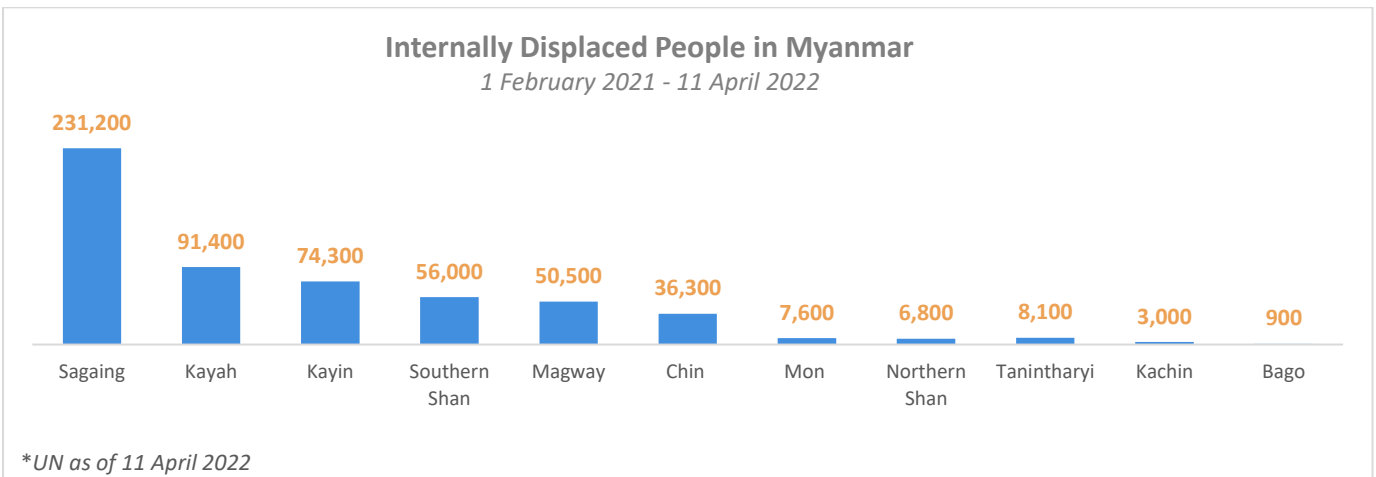
¹ OCHA's data on Sagaing/Magway/Chin (up to 28 March 2022), Karenni Human Rights Group (KHRG) on Kayah (up to 28 Feb 2022), Data for Myanmar in remaining states (up to 31 March 2022)

**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

Ongoing fighting in the country’s east and northwest has exacerbated the humanitarian and displacement situation. The use of heavy weapons, including airstrikes and artillery fire, as well as landmines and the presence of explosive remnants of war (ERW) continues to claim lives and pose risks to the safety and security of the civilian population, especially Internally Displaced People (IDPs). Since the military takeover, at least 1,600 people, including over 100 children, have been killed, and thousands injured or maimed according to Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).² During the first two months of 2022, UNICEF recorded 53 casualties from landmines and ERW alone. (See page 5 of this update for more details)

Hundreds of thousands of men, women, boys and girls have fled their homes for safety since the February military takeover, many of them forced to move multiple times exposing people to grave protection risks. As of 11 April 2022, the number of new IDPs since the military takeover in 2021 stands at 566,100, according to UN figures, bringing the total number of IDPs across the country to 912,700. In addition, it is estimated that 36,100 people from Myanmar are currently displaced in neighbouring countries. This includes 34,500 in India and 1,600 in Thailand.



At least 8,262 houses and other civilian properties, including churches monasteries, schools, and markets have reportedly been either burnt down or destroyed, mainly in Sagaing and Magway regions and Chin and Kayah states. (See page 3 of this update for more details)

The stressful financial situation already facing many vulnerable families after COVID-19 and the recent conflict has been placed under further strain by fresh price rises, especially for fuel since the start of the conflict in Ukraine which has impacted on global supply. According to WFP price monitoring, the price of fuel has increased by 18 per cent from February to March 2022 and is more than double the price (up 133 per cent) compared to February 2021.³The next round of monthly data is expected to show even steeper hikes. This has serious implications for people’s ability to purchase food and other essentials and if it becomes protracted, will also have an impact on the cost of humanitarian operations in 2022. In the HRP 2022, clusters anticipated continued inflation (ranging from 15-35 per cent depending on the cluster) but the ICCG will conduct a fresh stocktake of these impacts in the coming weeks.

Against this backdrop of conflict, the monsoon season is now approaching, placing another burden on the lives of vulnerable and displaced people in high-risk areas and adding new urgency to addressing shelter and NFI funding gaps. While the first storm of the season reached the Rakhine coast with limited impact at the end of March, the weather system was a timely opportunity to refresh preparedness planning. In the lead up to the storm, the de facto Rakhine State authorities evacuated some 300 people to a primary school in Yone Ka Htoe village in Gwa township and at least 90 vulnerable IDPs, including elderly people and persons with disabilities, were relocated to cyclone shelters in Sittwe. The de facto authorities immediately activated the respective township-level Disaster Management Committees (DMCs), instructed Village Tract leaders to prepare cyclone shelters around camp areas to accommodate

² OHCHR, Myanmar UN report and press release, 15 March 2022

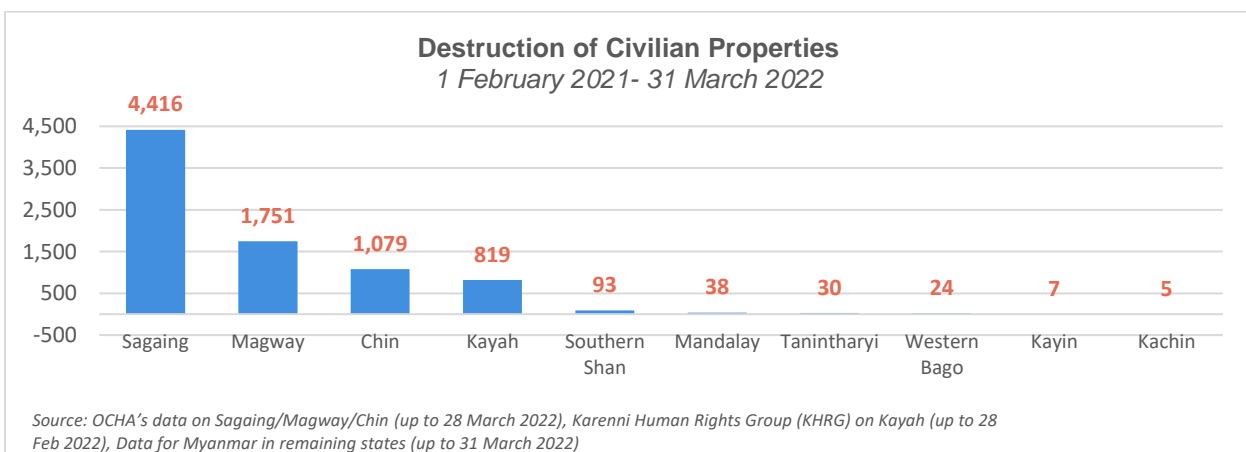
³ February 2022 WFP Price Monitoring Dashboard

Rohingya IDPs in Sittwe and put in place a plan to relocate IDPs in Pauktaw township to high ground, if needed. Each district office of the Department of Disaster Management stored non-food items to cover 1,000 families as part of the initial response. Operational humanitarian partners in Rakhine immediately undertook preparedness activities at the sub-national level, disseminating disaster preparedness messages around cyclone, flood and landslide risks in Rohingya languages in camps in Sittwe and in Pauktaw townships. The Inter-Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG) also convened an emergency meeting in Yangon to take stock of preparedness actions before the storm hit. Humanitarian partners have been recently updating their national emergency response preparedness plans for 2022 in preparation for the monsoon season and in the event of an emergency, will coordinate with the relevant de facto authorities to ensure an immediate and efficient response.

Overall, humanitarian actors, in close coordination with local partners, continue providing critical life-saving assistance to the most affected people but face ongoing challenges in addressing urgent needs due to access constraints and funding shortfalls. To meet their obligations to people in need, humanitarian actors, including the UN, international and national NGOs, need quicker, simpler and more predictable access processes. Visa, banking, registration, and MOU blockages remain major obstacles to effective response and must urgently be resolved. It is critical that new banking rules introduced by the Central Bank on foreign currency transactions do not hamper the ability of humanitarian organizations from accessing funding for life-saving work. Significant funding gaps persist, a quarter of the way into 2022. To date, only 5 per cent (\$37.1 million) of the \$826 million requested in the 2022 Humanitarian Response Plan, has been received (FTS). Continued underfunding of this magnitude will have life-threatening consequences for millions of people in 2022. 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. Donors and funding recipients are also reminded of the importance of up-to-date and complete reporting of funding flows to the [Financial Tracking Service](#) to ensure that a clear picture of gaps is available to support decision-making.

Displacement and destruction of property continue unabated

Armed clashes in the country's east and northwest have continued during the reporting period, resulting in further displacement and destruction of civilian property. In the northwest, armed clashes between the MAF and local People's Defence Forces (PDFs) and the Chinland Defence Forces (CDF) escalated across several townships in Chin State, Magway and Sagaing regions. Consequently, the number of IDPs in the northwest has significantly increased, exceeding 300,000 for the first time in March 2022. Many civilian properties were also destroyed due the ongoing fighting, bringing the total number of houses and other civilian properties, including churches and monasteries, reportedly burnt down or destroyed in northwest Myanmar to more than 7,200 since 1 February 2021.⁴ This includes 1,071 in Chin State, 4,416 in Sagaing, and 1,751 in Magway region (see graph). At the same time, the PDFs and CDF have limited civilian movement in various areas because of safety risks amid ongoing clashes.



In the country's southeast, armed clashes between the MAF and EAOs, as well as PDFs have been reported in almost all states and regions throughout March. In Kayin State, armed clashes have continued in Hpapun, Kawkareik and Myawaddy townships, which included MAF airstrikes, according to local media and partners. In particular, armed

⁴ OCHA's data on Sagaing/Magway/Chin (up to 28 March 2022), Karenni Human Rights Group (KHRG) on Kayah (up to 28 Feb 2022), Data for Myanmar in remaining states (up to 31 March 2022)

clashes between the MAF and the Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA) have intensified in Kawkareik and Myawaddy townships since 12 March. Fighting was initially reported along the Asia Highway which reportedly resulted in the death of a bus driver and injuries to another two civilians on 12 March. Following this fatal incident, the KNLA announced that it will temporarily block the road amid continues fighting. Many people temporarily fled their villages for safety, however, when the fighting calmed down and the MAF troops withdrew from the southern part of Kawkareik, about 1,550 IDPs were able to return home.

In Kayah State, the MAF has been launching heavy airstrikes and artillery fire towards the combined forces of the Karenni Army (KA), Karenni Nationalities Defence Forces (KNDF) and PDFs since early March 2022. Armed clashes were reported in Demoso and Hpruso townships. In mid-March, 3,220 people fled their homes and sought refuge in safer locations within Demoso and in Pekon and Hsiseng townships in southern Shan. Humanitarian actors and community-based organizations have been providing food and relief items to newly displaced people. The security situation in Loikaw township has become more stable, although MAF troops are still present in the area. Partners estimate that IDPs, who are originally from Demoso and Hpruso and are currently displaced in Loikaw or southern Shan, will not be able to return home for some time due to the scale of destruction in their villages of origin. In Bago Region, armed clashes between the MAF and the KNLA were reported in Kyaukkyi and Shwegyin townships. In Tanintharyi region, armed clashes were also reported between a PDF and the Pyu Saw Htee group (supported by the MAF) in Palaw township in early March, resulting in additional displacement within Palaw township.

Overall, as of 11 April, the number of people in the southeast who remain displaced because of the conflict since the military takeover stands at 238,300 according to the UN. This includes 91,400 IDPs in Kayah, 74,300 IDPs in Kayin, 56,000 IDPs in southern Shan, 7,600 IDPs in Mon, 8,100 IDPs in Tanintharyi, and 900 IDPs in Bago. The number of Myanmar nationals who have sought refuge across the border into Thailand is estimated to stand at 1,600.

In Shan State, armed clashes have mainly continued in Muse township in northern Shan and in Pekon township in southern Shan. As a result, about 2,460 people from Pekon township were displaced within the same township. At the same time, some 3,300 IDPs in Pekon township have returned to their villages of origin within the same township, while some 2,120 IDPs in Hsiseng township have returned to Loikaw township in Kayah State. Overall, as of 11 April 2022, about 62,800 people remain displaced in Shan State. This includes 6,800 IDPs in northern Shan and 56,000 IDPs in southern Shan. This includes 48,400 displaced by armed conflict within southern Shan and neighbouring Kayah State and 7,600 displaced due to inter-EAO conflict in southern Shan.

In Kachin State, the situation remains tense due to reported armed clashes between the MAF and the combined forces of the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) and PDFs, as well as other security incidents in Bhamo, Hpakant, Mansi Mogaung, Mohnyin, Momauk, Myitkyina, Puta-O, Shwegu and Tanai townships, according to local sources and media. In Hopin town in Mohnyin township, the market was closed due to insecurity following reported armed clashes nearby. The local PDF in Hopin warned the residents against going to the south-eastern area of Nan Yin stream as they had planted landmines. The main road between the Mogaung and Myitkyina townships was temporarily closed due to active fighting.

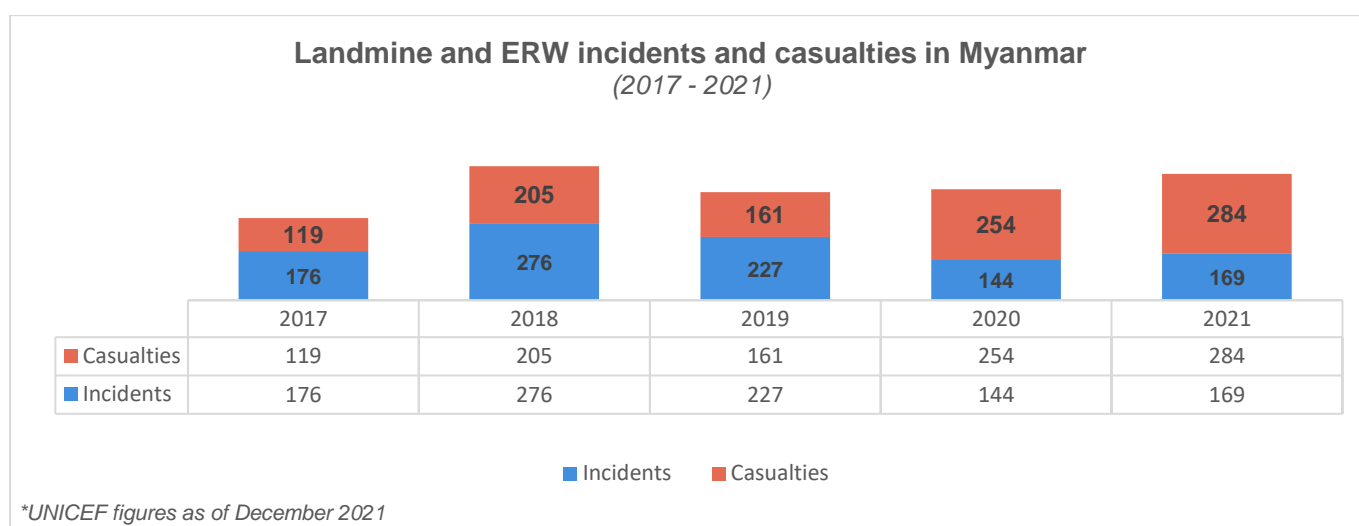
As of mid-March, fighting in Puta-O township stopped and the security situation has slightly improved. Consequently, around 4,000 out of the 6,000 IDPs, who were staying in other parts of Puta-O township, in Myitkyina and in the forest, have returned to their villages of origin with support from religious groups. The remaining IDPs, especially those from Tsum Pi Yang and In Si Yang villages in Puta-O township, could not return home as their homes were either destroyed or burnt down. Humanitarian actors, including local partners, provided assistance to IDPs from Puta-O who were staying in urban areas within the township and Myitkyina. The IDPs also received food assistance (rice, oil and salt) and cash-for-food from local partners, churches, CSOs and private donors. Limited assistance was provided to IDPs hiding in the forest because of the security situation and limited access. However, upon their evacuation from the forest and their return to villages of origin with the other IDPs, a joint convoy mission, comprised of OCHA, UNICEF, UNHCR, UNFPA and UNDSS, was organized to Puta-O from 30 March to 3 April to deliver humanitarian assistance. Partners provided food, shelter, medicines and COVID-19 preventative items and hygiene kits, as well as GBV and child protection services. Partners reported that food insecurity remains an issue in Puta-O township, particularly in Tsum Pi Yang and In Si Yang villages, as the harvest in this area will not take place until next year. There will, therefore, be a need to continue distributing food to these villages and provide livelihood support until the end of 2022. Similarly, there remains an ongoing need to support the reconstruction of nine houses that were destroyed by airstrikes and ensure availability of water sources and sanitation infrastructure in Puta-O township.

Overall, as of 11 April 2022, an estimated 3,000 people remain internally displaced in Kachin because of the fighting and insecurity since the military takeover, according to the latest UN figures. This is in addition to 92,500 people who were already displaced prior to 2021.

Landmines and explosive remnants of war: Myanmar's hidden killers

This month, the international community in Myanmar marked the 22nd International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action where the world reflects on the devastating impact of landmines and ERW on the lives and physical safety of civilians, as well as on their freedom of movement, particularly to access basic services and livelihoods. Myanmar has long-faced dangers from landmines and ERW due to the decades-long conflicts between the MAF and numerous EAOs and legacy mines from World War II. However, according to the Mine Action Area of Responsibility (AoR) for Myanmar, since the post-takeover expansion of armed clashes into new areas of the country, there has been an increase in landmine and UXO contamination affecting the lives of millions of people, particularly those on the move. It is estimated that 12 States are now contaminated to some degree with UXO and landmines.

Consequently, in 2021, the number of incidents and casualties from landmine and ERW incidents increased compared to 2020. UNICEF documented of 169 incidents that resulted in 284 casualties (deaths and injuries), affecting 153 men, 51 women, 56 boys, and 18 girls. During the first two months of 2022 alone, UNICEF recorded a further 53 casualties from landmines and UXOs. Shan State recorded the highest number of these 2022 casualties (60 per cent), followed by Kachin (15 per cent) and Rakhine (11 per cent). Children represented 38 per cent of the total casualties during these two months. This data is likely to be an under-estimate of actual incidents because it does not include casualties from Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs). Many incidents in Myanmar also remain unreported due to the lack of a national accident surveillance system or common reporting mechanism, as well as a lack of protection presence in conflict-affected areas. Despite the under-reporting, a clear increasing trend in casualties can be seen in the graph below with more than double the number in 2021 (284), compared to five years earlier (119 in 2017)



In addition to the loss of life and physical injury which often results in life-long impairment or amputation, victims of landmines and ERW face psychological trauma, social exclusion, livelihood challenges and educational hurdles. Families of survivors are also affected when the breadwinner of the family is killed or injured. The cost of medical treatment for these injuries adds to the burden on affected households, further compounding their pre-existing vulnerabilities. Furthermore, landmines and UXO directly impact on the food security of people as land used for cultivation trade or transportation of goods is increasingly becoming contaminated while little mapping is possible. People are frequently killed or injured while working on the land or on their way to and from their homes while collecting firewood or foraging for food.

Despite advocacy efforts around this protection concern and its impact on the civilian population, humanitarian Mine Action organizations do not have the required equipment, human resources, or necessary authorizations to engage in humanitarian demining/clearance activities and even mapping in many areas. In view of this situation, humanitarian actors are scaling-up a preventative response that focuses on Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) victim assistance services, which include support for victims to receive emergency and ongoing medical care, rehabilitation, psychological and psycho-social support, and socio-economic inclusion assistance.⁵

⁵ International Mine Action Standards, 2021

In 2022, humanitarian actors are scaling-up lifesaving EORE in high-risk areas and are expanding their geographical coverage. Since the beginning of 2022, Mine Action partners have been disseminating awareness raising messages among affected people in local languages, using various channels of communication, including the radio, social media platforms and other applications. For instance, an EORE phone application was developed, and messages are often shared through Zaypa in areas without internet access. All EORE messages from this application are accessible offline. The ICCG is also working to mainstream this kind of risk education work across the work of all sectors, as a joint responsibility, especially where humanitarian activities are supporting IDPs. Trainings and awareness materials will be made available to other sectors by the Mine Action AoR to support this effort.

In January and February 2022, 16,922 adults (6,170 males and 10,752 females) and 14,512 children (6,995 boys and 7,517 girls) received risk education. Eight training of trainers (ToT) sessions were organized in January and February for 145 CSO staff and community focal points (68 women, 77 men) in Rakhine and Kachin, covering life-saving risk awareness messaging, and another two online EORE ToT sessions were given to 65 participants (45 women, 20 men) from child protection partner organizations and social organizations and volunteers from Kayin, Mon and Thanintharyi.

Partners also plan to increase access to quality, integrated victim assistance services for children and adults, tailored to their needs (age, gender, disabilities, and other diversities, as well as location), with particular focus on the provision of life-saving services directly to survivors. Victim assistance services will ensure that persons with disabilities, including mine and ERW survivors, can participate fully in society on an equal basis with others. To address these urgent needs, Mine Action partners in Myanmar need \$7.8 million to support approximately 386,000 people under the 2022 HRP. To date, Mine Action has received \$270,000 from the most recent CERF allocation, but no other funding has been received for planned activities under the 2022 HRP.

While these activities are essential to mitigate against the human consequences of landmines and ERW, they do not eliminate the threat. All parties to the conflict must cease using landmines and other explosive hazards in order to prevent further loss of life and allow communities to safely access their land so that they can earn an income and support their families. Although Myanmar has not signed the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC), the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM) nor the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCCW), more efforts should be invested to allow for demining activities by humanitarian experts across the country, particularly in conflict-affected areas.

Landmine accidents in northern Shan

Mai Aike Hla is a 26-year-old husband and father of a two-year old child who lives with his extended family in Kone Hsar village, south of Kutkai in northern Shan. The village is home to around 50 families of largely Ta'ang ethnic origin. To support their families, most of the villagers rely on farming rice and maize, as well as sometimes collecting firewood for charcoal production as their main sources of livelihood.

"If people knew more about the risks of mines and had the right knowledge, then perhaps less people would have ended up like me," landmine survivor, Mai Aike Hla.

Since 2017, Kutkai township has witnessed frequent armed clashes between the Northern Alliance — a military coalition comprised of four EAOs — and the MAF. The armed groups often use Kone Hsar village as a transit area due to its proximity to town. After the Northern Alliance relocated to an alternative base in late 2017, the MAF are thought to have buried many landmines along the boundaries of the village to create a defensive line. Reports of explosive incidents involving livestock have escalated since this time. Villagers faced serious risks while herding in and around the village. Many fled the area for safety. Mai Aike Hla was one of the villagers who opted to remain in Kone Hsar village, but the decision has had grave consequences for him and his family.



The HALO team support Mai Aike Hla with financial assistance at Lashio Public Hospital.

Earlier this year, Mai Aike Hla was collecting firewood just outside the village when he stepped on a landmine. The explosion was heard by the other villagers who immediately rushed to his aid. He was badly injured and was rushed first to the Kutkai Public Hospital and later the Lashio Public Hospital. Due to the severity of his injuries, Mai Aike Hla's leg had to be amputated.

“Almost all the villagers have been burning charcoal as a source of income to provide for their families. The firewood is harder to find in our village, but there’s a lot more in the area where the landmines were planted in the past. That’s why I took the risk and went into that area even though I knew that it was dangerous,” Mai Aike Hla said.

With the support of the [Myanmar Humanitarian Fund](#), the HALO Trust was able to contribute to Mai Aike Hla’s medical expenses. While the financial assistance will help him and his family with immediate costs, unfortunately, Mai Aike Hla will live with this legacy of the conflict for the rest of his life.

“I am very thankful for the financial support I got from the HALO Trust. It was such a relief when I learnt that they are covering for my medical treatment as I am the only breadwinner in my family and was worried how I would pay this unexpected expense and continue to support the family afterward,” Mai Aike Hla said.

The HALO trust is the world’s largest humanitarian mine clearance organization. In Myanmar, in addition to supporting landmine victims like Mai Aike Hla, the HALO Trust educates communities on the dangers posed by landmines and other debris left behind from armed conflict.

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE HIGHLIGHTS

Education in Emergencies

Needs

- As the academic year comes to an end in April, children across Myanmar need learning activities support during the summer vacation to catch-up on missed learning. This is particularly vital for children who faced chronic or repeated disruptions to their education due to conflict and COVID-19. These catch-up learning activities will prepare them for the new academic year that begins in June.
- End of year exams were contentious in many areas as there was an increase in reported attacks on education facilities in central and southern Myanmar. Additionally, many displaced children and adolescents who wished to take the exams, were told that they needed to take the exams in their villages of origin, but they were unable to return due to safety risks and economic barriers. Attention is needed to this issue going forward to ensure children can continue their education progression.
- In Shan, emergency stocks of learning materials for children who are temporarily displaced are needed.

Response

- In Kachin, partners have been providing student kits for early childhood care and development (ECCD), primary and post-primary classes to displaced children from Puta-O who are hosted in Myitkyina township
- In Chin, Sagaing and Magway, partners have continued implementing ‘Bring Back Learning’ Activities for more than 23,000 vulnerable children, including those who are displaced. These learning activities are providing a more normal educational environment for children.
- The Education Cluster has finalized its three-year strategy and the recruitment process for three new full-time sub-national Cluster Coordinators. It has also started the partnership selection process for the Global Partnership for Education Accelerated Funding (GPE AF) program. The overall goal of the GPE AF program is to ensure that the most marginalized, crisis-affected children, including those who are out-of-school or at risk of dropping out, have access to quality learning opportunities to acquire the relevant skills and resilience to continue their learning and reinforce their wellbeing. In collaboration with the Global Education Cluster, the Cluster has also provided its partners with a four-day essential training which will enable them to conduct a harmonized or joint education needs assessment in 2022.
- The Education Cluster, in close coordination with other clusters in Rakhine, has established a task force that will develop standard operating procedures (SOPs) on how to react and communicate in the event schools and education facilities are occupied by parties to the conflict. These SOPs will also outline the support that will be provided to the affected head teachers and local authorities.

Gaps & Constraints

- An urgent scale-up of funding is critical for education activities with \$91 million required to reach 1.4 million children and youth through improved access to safe, quality learning opportunities in 2022 (HRP). To date, only one per cent of the required funding million has been received (FTS), leaving substantial gaps.
- In Kachin, the needs of displaced children from Puta-O who have returned home are great. This is a new location for the Education in Emergencies (EiE) response in terms of implementing partners and funding. A scale-up by education & child protection implementing partners is needed in this area.

- In Chin, the escalation in armed clashes is further impeding the transport and supply of Home-Based Learning materials, reducing the ability of partners to fully implement their programs, and reach children and adolescents with critical educational activities.
- The insufficient number of local CSOs/NGOs that can operate in many townships in Chin is exacerbating the education and food security needs of children and their families.

Food Security

Needs

- In 2021 Myanmar witnessed a deterioration in the overall food insecurity situation, with the highest prevalence found in Chin, Rakhine and Kayah.⁶ This trend continues in 2022 due to the ongoing conflict and COVID-19. Updated monitoring is being finalized.
- Across the country, household access to food has been reduced, both physically in areas of conflict and insecurity, and financially due to lost income and high food prices. This has resulted in worsening food consumption. This is increasing reliance on negative coping strategies and is further depleting livelihoods assets. Households are increasingly resorting to borrowing money or spending savings, creating a reduced ability to deal with future shocks and significant food security needs in the short and medium term.
- Humanitarian assistance is needed to address food consumption gaps for the most vulnerable households. Key population groups include those in the most conflict-affected states and regions, the newly displaced, the urban and peri urban poor, including those living in informal settlements, as well as communities who have lost access to their livelihoods and/or markets due to COVID-19 and conflict.

Response

- Since the beginning of 2022, partners have supported 1.4 million people with food, cash, or agriculture assistance across the country. This represents 25 per cent of the total target (4.1 million) in the 2022 HRP and is a dramatic scale-up on past years.
- Cluster partners are prioritizing food response and emergency agriculture support to recover vital crop and livestock production deficits, to help rebuild assets, and improve access to agricultural inputs which have become unaffordable due to economic shocks.

Gaps & Constraints

- Funding is urgently needed for planned emergency food assistance and livelihood activities in 2022 that target 4.1 million of the 13.2 million people in moderate or severe food insecurity (2022 HRP). Donors are encouraged to support the costs required to expand food security activities into areas recently affected by conflict. To date, only \$6.8 million out of the required \$286 million, or 2 per cent, has been received (FTS), leaving substantial gaps.
- There is insufficient coverage by cluster partners in many conflict areas, particularly in Sagaing and Magway regions. Where there is presence of cluster partners, their work is often limited to one type of activity (60 per cent of the 37 partners in the Cluster's 5Ws analysis). Resolving this requires incentivizing partners to expand their footprints and broaden their activity bases while the cluster identifies additional new capacity and works to boost funding.
- Conflict is having a profound impact on food security. Civil unrest and COVID-19 resulted in unemployment and income losses across Myanmar. Input and labor challenges led to difficulties in agricultural production which have caused farmers to scale back on planting areas. In 2021, 50 per cent of crop producers faced difficulty in crop production and this continues to impact on food supply.⁷ Disruptions to agricultural supply markets caused largely by transportation restrictions, increased fuel prices, and curfews, have further contributed to high retail prices. The outlook for the remainder of 2022 also looks grim. Given the general lack of agricultural support across Myanmar, it is likely that crop production will further decrease, even for farmers who are not forced to reduce their sowing area. This is because agricultural inputs—including fertilizers—are increasingly difficult to access and afford.
- Landmines and UXOs are hindering access to agricultural land and markets. Demining activities and mine risk education should be prioritized to address this challenge.

⁶ FAO/WFP assessment, August 2021.

⁷ FAO/WFP assessment, August 2021. This included 24% of crop producers who reduced area planted compared to the same period during a typical year, and 18% of crop producers who expected to reduce harvested area.


Health
Needs

- Limited availability of public health services is requiring increased resources from cluster partners. The priority needs are: (1) primary health care services, including sexual and reproductive, maternal, newborn, adolescent and child health; (2) emergency health care for victims of conflict, landmine and explosive remnants of war and other injuries; (3) COVID-19 prevention and treatment; (4) continuity of treatment for HIV/AIDS, TB and non-communicable diseases such as diabetes and hypertension. Primary health care services and COVID-19 awareness-raising are needed for the 4,000 IDPs from Puta-O who have returned to their villages of origin.

Response

- In Chin, Interagency Emergency Health Kit (IEHK), plus essential supplies of Oral rehydration salts (ORS), zinc, amoxicillin, dignity kits, sanitary pads and COVID-19 preventative materials were provided to local partners during March. In addition, COVID-19 prevention messages were translated into three Chin ethnic dialects. During the month, 24,000 Chin language vinyl posters were disseminated in 3 townships, along with Burmese language versions in 7 townships.
- In Sagaing, efforts are ongoing to establish an oxygen plant in Kale town. Additionally, more than 200 volunteers were trained in basic health care during March.
- In Kachin, 4,700 people received primary health care services in March 2022. Forty health staff received COVID-19 home-based management online training. COVID-19 information was disseminated through 10,000 pamphlets and 4,500 posters. Basic medicines are being prepared to support local partners in Puta-O township to respond to health needs among the IDPs from the recent conflict.
- In Rakhine, 23,000 people received primary health care services in March. The Health Cluster coordinated closely with the local health department and the WASH Cluster to prepare a standby response to the deep depression, which made landfall on 23 March.
- In northern Shan, 13,000 people received primary health care services in March. COVID-19 preventative items were provided to local partners. COVID-19 key messages were disseminated through 144,000 posters. The Cluster also disseminated 16,500 handbooks covering information on maternal and child health.
- In the Southeast, more than 100,000 COVID-19 posters were disseminated, and 20 volunteers received training on infection prevention and control in March. These trainings are critical in isolated areas with high risk of communicable disease outbreaks due to weak local health capacities.

Gaps & Constraints

- To date, only \$1.4 million has been reported towards the \$79 million required for provision of essential health services and mental health and psychosocial support for 1.4 million people in the 2022 HRP (FTS).
- Improvements in humanitarian access are urgently needed in all conflict-affected areas. In Rakhine, cumbersome bureaucratic processes, delays and denials of TAs remain major challenges.
- In the northwest and southeast, transportation of commodities and medicines has become a challenge due to road blockages, presence of checkpoints and insecurity. Advocacy around safe passage of health supplies is required. The Health Cluster will continue to share these access challenges and their implications with UN representatives to advocate around them at the national level.


Nutrition
Needs:

- Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) continues to be a serious concern in many parts of the country requiring proper referral services. A total of 350 out of the 6,917 children who were screened in villages in Sittwe and Mrauk-U townships in Rakhine State and in several villages of Dagon Seikan township in Yangon Region in March, were identified as having varying forms of acute malnutrition and/or oedema (Assessment and Information Management Technical Working Group - AIM TWG)
- There is a need to provide inpatient care for the treatment of SAM with underlying medical complications, as there is a concern about continued gaps in the treatment of SAM cases. The Nutrition Cluster will encourage the few partners with the capacity to provide inpatient care in 2022 to scale-up to minimize the gaps. According to the guidelines from the Ministry of Health (MoH), nutrition partners can only provide SAM patients with ready to use therapeutic food (RUTF) and amoxicillin, and then refer the cases with underlying medical complications to MoH hospitals.

Response

- Nutrition partners have provided a wide range of response packages, including screening and referral for treatment of SAM, micronutrient supplementation, targeted and blanket supplementary feeding for children aged 6-59 months and pregnant and lactating women across the country during January and February 2022 (Nutrition Information System -NIS).
- Since the beginning of 2022, close to 101,800 people (11 per cent), out of the targeted 1 million people, have received nutrition services and treatment across the country. This includes 70,321 people in Rakhine, 21,499 in Yangon, 4,511 in Kachin, 4,241 in Ayeyarwady, 1,315 in Kayin and 266 in northern Shan.

Gaps & Constraints

- Additional funding is critical with \$61 million required to provide access to life-saving nutrition treatment and services to 1 million food insecure and displaced people, including children, pregnant and breastfeeding mothers (2022 HRP). To date, only \$0.9 million has been received (FTS). Advocacy for increased financial support and integrated mobile health teams is needed to improve nutrition services.
- The situation for both preventive and therapeutic nutrition supplies is concerning with pipeline disruption expected as early as June 2022 for some key commodities. The Nutrition Cluster is facing a supply break due to a combination of underfunding, delays due to tax clearance, procurement, and partner capacity issues, as well as the security situation. Available preventative and therapeutic supplies from the providers of last resort (UNICEF and WFP) are updated below:
 - Approximately US\$3.6 million financial gap for the procurement of ready to use therapeutic food (RUTF), micronutrient tabs for pregnant women and multiple micronutrient and vitamin supplementation against the targets projected in the HRP.
 - It is currently projected that there will be a countrywide pipeline break for ready to use supplementary food (RUSF) in September 2022. Wheat Soya Blend for Young Children and Adults (WSB+/ WSB++) will experience a pipeline break in June or July 2022. The projected pipeline break also reflects a significant resource gap, depending on anticipated funding streams from development partners.

Protection

Needs

- The need for risk education on landmines and explosive remnants of war (ERW), as well as provision of victim assistance remains high as hundreds of thousands of people on the move and communities in conflict areas are now exposed to a high level of threat. According to UNICEF, 53 casualties from landmine/ERW explosions countrywide were recorded during the first two months of 2022. Children represent 38 per cent of the total casualties. Advocacy efforts are needed to stop the use of landmines and ERWs.
- In Kayin State, IDPs in Myawaddy and Kawkareik townships need protection support as they face movement restrictions due to roadblocks and security checks and have limited access to safe locations because of the conflict.
- In Rakhine, partners are stressing the importance of advocacy around the return of IDPs from displacement sites in Myebon, Minbya, and Mrauk-U townships to ensure this is done voluntarily, freely and with informed consent.
- In Kachin, there is a need to ensure safety and privacy for displaced women from Puta-O, who have returned home from the forest to Tsum Pi Yang village. IDPs shared that the women feel unsafe staying in host community houses where these are being shared by many families. They also have limited access to information on available services. (Joint mission to Puta-O, March 2022).
- In northern Shan, expanded humanitarian access to Monekoe town in Muse township is needed to provide assistance to more than 700 IDPs displaced due to the fighting. The security situation in the area is very tight and there are multiple security checkpoints.
- Reports of forced recruitment are on the rise, particularly in Lashio, Hseni, Namtu and Tangyan townships. Scaled-up advocacy efforts are needed to push for an end to this practice.
- In Rakhine, GBV survivors who are separated or divorced are facing shelter issues as accommodation provided by camp management agencies is usually listed under the name of their male partners. Case management agencies have no other shelter to provide to these female-headed houses. Furthermore, Rohingya people living in the camps and in villages in Kyauk Taw and Mrauk U prefer not to go to the safe houses because they are located in Sittwe. A rental shelter is another option, but the rent is very high. There is a need to identify more sustainable solutions.

- In Central Rakhine, protection support is needed for IDPs and non-displaced Rohingya communities to address ongoing rights violations and restrictions on accessing basic services, livelihoods, and humanitarian assistance.

Response

- All organizations engaged in Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) are working on a coordinated response through the mine action AoR. Digital EORE is also being delivered to reach larger audiences. Messaging via social media and radio has also been used. The EORE Application is being shared through Zappya in areas without internet/Wifi access. All EORE messages from this application are accessible offline. In January and February 2022, 16,922 adults (6,170 males and 10,752 females) and 14,512 children (6,995 boys and 7,517 girls) received risk education. This represents almost 40 per cent of the 80,500 targeted people for EORE in the 2022 HRP.
- A total of 8 'training of trainers' (ToT) sessions was organized in January and February for 145 CSO staff and community focal points (68 women, 77 men) in Rakhine and Kachin, covering lifesaving mine risk awareness messaging. Another two online EORE ToT sessions were given to 65 participants (45 women, 20 men) from child protection partner organizations and social organizations and volunteers from Kayin, Mon and Thanintharyi.
- A total of 30,742 people (10,520 girls, 10,061 boys, 6,790 women and 3,361 men) were reached across the country through 26 partners with critical Child Protection services, including access to mental health and psychosocial support services (MHPSS), GBV risk mitigation, prevention, and response interventions, as well as EORE during March. Since the beginning of 2022, a total of 14,679 children and caregivers, have received MHPSS support. According to the HRP, protection partners aim to reach 80,500 people with EORE services, 33,000 people with GBV services, 135,000 people with MHPSS, and 5,000 with case management services in 2022.
- GBV and Child Protection Working Group partners provided assistance to retuning IDPs from Puta-O during a joint mission from 30 March to 4 April. This included referral of and follow up on cases of separated children and distribution of NFIs to families.
- In Chin state, focus group discussion were conducted with women and girls in Paletwa and Samee townships to better understand their perspectives around dignity kit distributions.
- GBV partners have distributed 10,020 dignity kits (over 16 per cent of the targeted people) and 921 clean delivery kits to women and girls in displacement sites and IDP camps across Kachin, Rakhine, Kayah, Shan and Kayin since the beginning of 2022.
- In Rakhine, partners disseminated information and key messages on Safety Migration and Child Trafficking to 59 community volunteers (48 females; 10 males). This was in response to the growing protection concerns reported during the first quarter of children being trafficked and/or smuggled inside the country and across borders. This community-based intervention aims to enhance the protection environment for children and caregivers across the different communities in Rakhine.
- With regards to coordination, in March, the Child Protection AoR launched the Yangon sub-national Child Protection Coordination Group in Yangon to further improve the coordinated response of protecting children and upholding their rights. A GBV Working Group has also been activated in northern Rakhine; the ToR for the Co-Chairs is with the MIAG coordination team for their review.
- In Kayin, child friendly spaces (CFS) have been set up in Hpapun and Myawaddy townships, along with the provision of psychosocial support and family tracing. Local partners and camp volunteers have also conducted CFS activities in two villages in Myawaddy township in March and early April 2022 and EORE sessions for 25 people from the IDP camp in the township.
- In central Rakhine, protection partners and sub-cluster lead agencies continue to work on the activation of inter-agency referral pathways. Preparations include a workshop for all protection partners on the tools, guiding principles and steps for making successful referral.
- In preparation for the upcoming wet season, the Protection Cluster and child protection partners are conducting a review of existing Emergency Response Plans and are identifying gaps in the provision of responses, especially in central Myanmar such as Ayeyarwady Region.
- The Child Protection AoR is planning to roll out a comprehensive training plan in during the second and third quarters of 2022 to support new partner organizations on delivering Child Protection in Emergencies (CPIE).

Gaps & Constraints

- Funding is critical to scale up protection interventions in 2022. Cluster partners require \$116 million to provide 2 million people with wide-ranging critical protection services, including support for survivors of GBV, mine risk education, victim assistance and mental health support (2022 HRP). To date, only \$5 million has been received (FTS). Funding is also needed to support Mine Action coordination and information management.

- A recent mapping exercise showed major EORE gaps across the entire country. As such, populations are not receiving lifesaving EORE or victim assistance services and not aware of the dangers. The ICCG has agreed to work on mainstreaming EORE across all clusters in 2022, particularly for programming which reaches IDPs. The Mine Action AOR is working internally on trainings and materials to support this effort.
- UNICEF is monitoring civilian casualty updates however these figures do not include victims of improvised explosive devices (IEDs). It is challenging to obtain up-to-date and accurate data; incidents are likely to be underreported, as civilian victims may not wish to share information and partners often have data protection concerns in conflict areas.
- In Sagaing, Magway, and Rakhine, the main barriers to providing sufficient child protection case management services are access restrictions and the limited presence of CP actors in certain areas.
- In the southeast, the lack of access is hindering the ability of partners to assess protection risks, vulnerabilities and needs, and provide relevant assistance. Due to the current political and security situation in the southeast, most humanitarian activities are heavily restricted. Active fighting, logistical constraints, roadblocks and the lack of travel authorizations are preventing partners from reaching IDPs in Kayah and Kayin states, eastern Bago and Tanintharyi which is hampering access to basic services and specialized protection services. The Protection Working Group and the Kayah Protection Network continue to advocate for the protection of civilians as well as improved access.
- Procurement and transportation of NFIs in Kayin is challenging due to roadblocks. Multi-purpose cash assistance (MPCA) has been identified by the partners as the best way to support the most vulnerable IDPs, but there is a need to increase the budget for these interventions and promote more coordinated approaches and procedures.
- In southern Shan, escalating tensions between the Restoration Council of Shan State (RCSS) and the Northern Alliance Army have made it more difficult for Ethnic Health Organizations (EHO) to deliver services. A number of EHO health posts in Mongkaing, Kehsi and Laikha townships were raided and destroyed during the reporting period and some medical commodities were taken. Service provision at the affected health posts has been disrupted as a result.
- In Rakhine, tensions between the AA and MAF have increased in some locations resulting in the suspension of some activities in affected areas. Access to villages of return, Rohingya villages, and some Rakhine displacement sites remains constrained.
- The Child Protection Working Group is advocating for funds to be set aside within programme budgets for the organizational development of civil society organizations (CSOs) to help ensure CSOs are fully supported in their operations and are not reliant on being implementing partners.
- The rise in commodity prices throughout townships in Rakhine is diminishing the community's capacity to meet their basic needs, including healthcare, education, and livelihoods. Communities continue to experience the socio-economic impact of the military takeover and COVID-19.
- Referral pathways need to be strengthened among Child Protection and GBV AoR partners to ensure better identification and case management for the most vulnerable cases.

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

Needs

- Emergency shelter items (tarpaulins and ropes), core relief items (kitchen sets, sleeping mats, mosquito nets, jerrycans, buckets, solar lanterns, clothing, and dignity kits) and cash continue to be key needs in the southeast. Specific needs per state and region are as follows:
 - In eastern Bago, NFIs are needed for about 167 newly displaced households currently staying in two villages in Oktwin township, where humanitarian presence is extremely limited.
 - In Kayin State, more than 22,000 IDPs in the Lay Kay Kaw area of Myawaddy township are unable to return home. About 10 per cent of this group are living in makeshift camps in 6 locations and were severely affected by the recent heavy rains and strong winds that caused flooding, destruction of and damage to shelters and other infrastructure. More than 1,000 shelters for IDPs staying along Thaungyin/Moei riverbank on the Myanmar-Thai border in Myawaddy township, were destroyed by heavy rains and strong winds in March (source: The Karen Human Rights Group).
 - A total of 80 female-headed households in Myaing Gyi Ngu area need shelter materials. These households are among resettled returnees who had originally been displaced by conflict before February 2021. (UNHCR needs assessment, March 2022).
- In Rakhine State, the following urgent needs were identified:
 - More than 133,000 Rohingya and Kaman IDPs are living in 2,256 longhouses in camps. Of these, 551 longhouses, sheltering more than 28,000 IDPs, are structurally unsound and require immediate action to ensure the safety of the residents. Most of the camps are located close to the coast and are exposed to high winds and rains during the monsoon and cyclone season, which starts in June. Of particular

urgency are 140 longhouses in Say Tha Mar Gyi camp in Sittwe township, where IDPs are living in undignified conditions. These shelters are in extreme disrepair and pose life-threatening risks to the inhabitants and other residents in the area, particularly in harsh weather conditions. There is currently a \$4.7 million funding gap for the works to repair the 551 longhouses.

- Discussions continue over plans to close the Kyauk Ta Lone IDP camp in Kyaukpyu township and relocate them to a new site chosen by the de facto authorities. The de facto authorities continue to build individual houses on their proposed relocation site which is next to the existing camp, while most IDPs have reported that they would prefer to either return to their places of origin or to another relocation site closer to downtown Kyaukpyu. No land preparation was carried out in the relocation site which leaves the new houses vulnerable to flooding in the rainy season.
- There is ongoing concern about the high risk of transmission of acute watery diarrhoea (AWD) in protracted IDP camps in Rakhine due to the restrictions imposed on the freedom of movement of the Rohingya IDPs and their poor access to health services (CCCM report, March 2022).

Response

- In eastern Bago, one-time cash assistance was provided to 167 households who were newly displaced in two villages during March. In addition, through the Kayin Inter-Agency Coordination Group, the IDPs will be absorbed into UNICEF's new cash assistance programme that covers all eastern Bago (900 IDPs).
- In Kayin State, IDPs have received assistance from border-based organizations, while the cluster is following up to ensure coordination of planned responses.
- The distribution of shelter materials for the 80 female-headed households in Myaing Gyi Ngu area in Kayin State at the end of March was postponed at the request of the Myaing Gyi Ngu Camp Committee. The distribution will be rescheduled as soon as possible.
- In Rakhine, cluster partners have reconstructed 12 shelters in Baw Du Pa Rohingya IDP camp in Sittwe since the beginning of 2022. This still leaves a gap of 551 shelters as mentioned above.
- A total of 1,420 households (62 per cent in AA-MAF displacement sites and 38 per cent in Rohingya/Kaman IDP camps) received different types of shelter assistance, a small amount compared to the level of need. To prevent further transmission of acute watery diarrhoea (AWD) in protracted IDP camps in Rakhine, CCCM partners, in close coordination with WASH and health continue to provide support including immediate referral of new cases, preventative hygiene services, conducting hygiene promotion sessions for the IDPs, and distributing awareness messages via various channels in local languages. The message stresses the importance of seeking medical treatment at health facilities, particularly for children, and the dangers of traditional remedies.

Gaps & Constraints

- Access and movement for materials and people, including humanitarian workers, power outages and disruption to communications systems continued in Kayah State. Humanitarian needs monitoring and the movement of supplies remain a challenge.
- In Kayin State, access to IDP sites in Myawaddy district in Kayin State is limited from within Myanmar due to ongoing fighting, lack of TA approvals, MAF reinforcements and roadblocks. This is making transport of emergency supplies very challenging in this area. The safety of aid workers is also a concern in this area.
- In Rakhine State, there have been housing land property (HLP) issues within camp boundaries for service providers, implementers, and camp management agencies. More advocacy with the de facto authorities is required to define the camp boundaries. There is now an additional bureaucratic layer for agencies to conduct construction and renovation activities of temporary longhouses/shelters and other humanitarian infrastructure in camps. Partners are required to obtain a written letter of land use clearance from the village administrator or authorities for work to proceed.
- Although humanitarian partners are trying to continue providing WASH, shelter and food assistance to IDPs in Kyauk Ta Lone Camp so that the decision to relocate is voluntary, partners are facing pressure to construct infrastructure in the relocation site instead. Strong advocacy with all relevant stakeholders will be required.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Needs

- Across the country, drinking water, water storage facilities, sanitation services, basic hygiene items and hygiene promotion continue to be critical needs.
- In Shan State, the most critical WASH needs are water treatment and storage, sanitation facilities, basic hygiene items and hygiene promotion for temporarily displaced people in both northern and southern Shan.

- In Kachin State, assessments have indicated that displaced people from Puta-O township (approximately 6,000 IDPs), who have recently returned to their villages of origin, need hygiene kits, water purification sachets, buckets, hygiene promotion awareness and additional temporary bathing places (Joint Mission to Puta-O, March 2022).
- Some 3,262 IDPs, who remain in temporary displacement sites in Bhamo, Hpakan, Mohnyin, Momauk, Myitkyina, Puta-O and Shwegu townships, also need WASH support in terms of hygiene kits, water supply and filters, temporary latrines and bathing places (WASH Monthly 3Ws Gap Analysis, Feb 2022).
- In Rakhine State, 37 per cent of the 121 AA-MAF displacement sites lack sufficient water, 44 per cent lack sanitation, and 61 per cent have hygiene gaps. Water scarcity is due to the drying-up of water ponds, which has led to the need for water trucking responses for some sites in Ponnagyun, Mrauk-U, Minbya, Kyauktaw and Myebon townships, and water boating response preparations for Rohingya IDP camps (Ah Nauk Ywe camp and village, and for Kyein Ni Pyin camp) in Pauktaw township (WASH Monthly 3Ws Gap Analysis, Feb 2022).
- In the country's northwest, 58 per cent of the displacement sites lack sufficient water, 62 per cent lack sanitation, and 74 per cent have hygiene gaps (Recent 3Ws assessment in Chin State, Magway and Sagaing regions). There is a need for advocacy efforts and coordination with local de facto authorities for access allowing distribution of humanitarian supplies.

Response

- In Kayin State, partners distributed 600 water filters to 600 households and 6,026 plastic water buckets (10 and 20 litres) with lids to 3,013 households in Myaing Gyi Ngu IDP camp during March. Similarly, 15,065 information, education and communications (IEC) materials/posters on hygiene promotion were also distributed in the same IDP camp. In addition, 1,100 hygiene kits and water purification tablets were distributed to IDPs in Myaing Gyi Ngu and Ohn Taw IDP camps.
- In southern Shan, since the beginning of 2022 partners have provided emergency WASH temporary displacement sites in 12 townships during March, distributing 5,144 hygiene kits, 494 essential learning package (ELP) kits, 13,688 water purification tablets, 96 water buckets and 5 sets of 2,000L water containers to 22,882 IDPs who have been displaced from Kayah State into Shan.
- In northern Shan, partners provided hygiene items and water containers to 63 newly displaced people in Pain Hsar village in Hseni township in mid-March. Partners have constructed 6 units of temporary latrines for 368 IDPs in a displacement site in Monekow sub-township in Muse township and 2 units of emergency latrines for 145 IDPs in Ward 5 displacement site in Tangyang township.
- In Kachin State, partners have provided ceramic water filters to 548 households in Myitkyina who have been displaced from Sumprabum and Puta-O townships. Similarly, partners have provided 12 temporary latrines for IDPs in Nam Haw village, Puta-O township and hygiene kits to 486 households (1,764 People) from 4 villages in Sumprabum and Puta-O townships.
- In Rakhine State, partners have covered 98 AA-MAF displacement sites out of 121 sites, reaching 43,507 IDPs in 8 townships (Ann, Kyauktaw, Minbya, Mrauk-U, Myebon, Pauktaw, Ponnagyun and Sittwe) with critical WASH supplies. Distribution to the IDPs included 22 water filters, 10,738 water purification sachets, 140 jerry cans, 4,235 hygiene kits. In addition, 7,380 families received soap, while 5,014 women and girls received disposable sanitary pads and reusable sanitary pads. Furthermore, partners conducted 150 hygiene promotion sessions during March.
- In Chin State, partners covered 136 displacement sites (28,594 IDPs) in Hakha, Matupi, Mindat, Paletwa and Thantlang townships, reaching 22,177 IDPs in March. Partners have also distributed 1,515 hygiene kits, 1,312 water purification sachets, and conducted 45 hygiene promotion sessions. In addition, 1,011 women and girls received sanitary pads.
- Partners are conducting monitoring to identify WASH needs in Falam, Hakha, Matupi and Thantlang townships in Chin State; Ayardaw, Budalin, Kale, Kani, Monywa, Myaung, Myinmu, Pale, Salingyi, Tabayin, Ye U and Yinmarbin townships in Sagaing Region; and Gangaw, Kyaukhtu, Myaing and townships in Magway Region.

Gaps & Constraints

- WASH interventions for 2022 are severely underfunded. To date, only \$1.3 million has been received of the required \$135 million to reach 2.1 million vulnerable and crisis-affected people with improved access to safe water, sustainable, durable and cost-effective sanitation facilities (2022 HRP).
- In the southeast, the possibility of road travel from state to state is changing frequently and travel restrictions are a major challenge for humanitarian actors. During March, travelling between Mawlamyine town in Mon State and Dawei town in Tanintharyi Region was restricted even for locals. Similarly, the Asia Highway between Hpa-an and Myawaddy townships in Kayin State has been closed due to ongoing fighting and security reasons.

- Travel restrictions remain a challenge in Monekoe sub-township in Muse township of northern Shan while the unstable security situation has restricted transportation of humanitarian assistance to the border areas of southern Shan and Kayah State.
- In Kachin State, water quality monitoring remains a challenge in emergency response due to technical constraints and several other factors, including limited access and capacity of local partners. To support expansion, the Kachin WASH cluster is planning to establish a Water Quality Monitoring and Action Technical Working Group with WASH actors.
- A local humanitarian partner suspended some of its WASH activities in its focal camps due to fund transfer issues and banking problems. The Kachin WASH cluster will negotiate with another two partners to cover the 7 affected camps in Bhamo, Mansi, Momauk and Shwegu townships, hosting 2,500 IDPs. The main gaps are fuel support for water supply, hygiene refill items, de-sludging and construction of new WASH infrastructure.
- Limits on cash withdrawals from banks continue. The MoUs of most WASH partners have expired and this is affecting their TAs and their WASH responses in IDPs camps and displacement sites.
- In the northwest, humanitarian partners and local CSOs/NGOs face challenges in distributing humanitarian supplies due to the security situation, restrictions and arrests.

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