

# MYANMAR | Operational Update

## KEY HIGHLIGHTS

**126,500** people received core relief items including kitchen sets, blankets and sleeping mats, ensuring their basic needs were met.

**37,000** people received shelter support for safe and dignified living conditions while in displacement.

**1,055** people with specific needs benefited from cash assistance to meet their basic needs.

## UNHCR PRESENCE



## POPULATION OF CONCERN

**600,000**

Estimated stateless Rohingya in Rakhine State, of which some **153,000** are living in displacement camps as well as among the host community since 2012.

**1,105,100**

Internally displaced people (IDP) living in Rakhine, Chin, Kachin, Shan, Kayin and Mon States, and Bago (East), Tanintharyi, Sagaing and Magway Regions. An estimated **758,500 people** are displaced due to the resumption and intensification of clashes between the Tatmadaw and ethnic armed organizations (EAOs) and/or People's Defense Forces (PDF) after 1 February 2021. Some **72,700** remain displaced in **172 sites** in Rakhine and Chin States displaced following the Arakan Army-Tatmadaw conflict.

## FUNDING AS OF 05 JULY 2022

**USD 56.7M**

requested for Myanmar in 2022



\*The team is temporarily redeployed in Taunggyi for security reasons.

## South-East

- The situation in the South-East (SE) continued to deteriorate with **an estimated 252,600 people displaced as of end of June 2022**. Armed clashes and indiscriminate artillery shelling intensified between the Tatmadaw and ethnic armed organizations (EAOs) and/or People's Defense Forces (PDF).
- Humanitarian access remains restricted due to insecurity, roadblocks, land mine risks, and logistical constraints. In April 2022 however, UNHCR was the first UN agency granted access since the security situation deteriorated in June 2021. UNHCR urgently distributed **core relief items (CRI) to some 30,000 IDPs and returnees in Kayah State**.
- While some return movements were reported - mainly in Loikaw, Kayah State - **multiple displacements** continue to take place in Demoso Township.
- In this quarter, UNHCR and its partners scaled up operations to **deliver life-saving CRI** including mosquito nets, blankets, kitchen sets, sleeping mats, sanitary and winterization kits **to over 70,000 IDPs in Shan (South) and Kayah States**. In response to several landmine related incidents in Kayah State, UNHCR, in collaboration with UNICEF, **distributed 750 mine risk education leaflets to IDP**.
- UNHCR and its partners continued supporting people with greatest needs and specific vulnerabilities. In Kayin State, **80 female-headed households benefited from shelter material assistance**. In addition, UNHCR provided corrugated galvanized iron (CGI) sheets to support the maintenance of existing shelters and reconstruction for 455 IDP in Shan State (South). In Kayin State and Bago (East) Region, **55 people with specific needs (PSN)**, including elderly, people with disabilities, children, people with serious medical conditions, and female headed households, were identified and supported with cash assistance.
- As part of its COVID-19 response, UNHCR distributed **25,000 face masks** in Shan State (South) and provided **10 oxygen concentrators** to hospitals located in Kayin State.
- Loss of livelihood and disruption in basic services has **heightened negative coping mechanisms**, notably reduced food consumption, child labor and school drop-outs - increasing dependency on humanitarian assistance. In order to strengthen resilience, two **community micro-finance Quick Impact Projects (QIP)** were implemented in two villages in Bago (East) Region and Kayin State, targeting some 670 people.



A displaced woman receiving relief items in Kayin State © UNHCR

## Rakhine and North-West

- Displacement has reached the **half million mark** in the North-West (Chin State, Magway and Sagaing Regions) where humanitarian access continues to remain a challenge. Incidents of destruction of civilian properties and casualties have continued over the reporting period.
- In Rakhine State, continued restriction of movement, including obstacles on certain main roads as well as fears of arrest or detention impact access to basic services and livelihoods for displaced people. Furthermore, humanitarian access in Rakhine (North) State continued to be restricted, especially for 1,400 families living in IDP sites.
- In May, the death of over 20 people in a maritime accident, highlight the ongoing risks that Rohingya face when attempting perilous migration routes. UNHCR continues to actively engage with communities, raising awareness about the risks of falling victim to these dangerous journeys.

- Return movements of populations displaced by the Arakan Army (AA) and the Tatmadaw conflict from Minbya, Ann and Pauktaw continued. Factors contributing to returns included a lack of viable livelihoods opportunities in places of displacement and, in some cases, significant influence by *de facto* authorities.
- UNHCR and its partners distributed **CRI - including blankets, kitchen sets, mosquito nets, buckets, jerry cans and solar lamps** - to over 39,000 people living in IDP camps and displacement sites and in Rakhine (Central) and Rakhine (North) States. As part of its COVID-19 response, **UNHCR distributed personal protective equipment (PPE) items to some 2,800 people** in Rakhine (Central) and Rakhine (North) State.
- UNHCR and its partners **distributed emergency shelter materials**, including ropes, tarpaulin, and bamboo poles to some 27,000 IDP in Rakhine (Central). Additionally, some 1,900 people moved into transitional shelters (longhouses) reconstructed by UNHCR and partners.
- Shelter and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) assessment missions took place together with other humanitarian organisations, in five IDP sites in Rakhine (North). This will be followed by a distribution of shelter materials and improvement of WASH infrastructures in July.
- Through Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM), UNHCR and partners continued to **ensure the wellbeing of and equitable access to services to over 131,500 IDPs living in Rohingya camps** in Rakhine (Central). An additional 5,181 IDP living in Nidin, Kyauk Ta Lone, and Taung Paw remain without full CCCM services due to a lack of regular access. Residents of Kyauk Ta Lone camp remain concerned over ongoing plans for camp closures and possible relocation to unsafe areas which are not of their choosing.
- Some 11,500 people in the AA -Tatmadaw conflict impacted displacement sites in Rakhine (Central), participated in outreach and information campaigns focused on access to services.
- About **17 community-based activities are ongoing in 13 different villages in Rakhine (Central)**. These projects will benefit around 2,600 people, including host communities.



UNHCR and its partners are providing emergency shelter materials to displaced families in Rakhine State © UNHCR

### Kachin and North-East

- UNHCR and partners distributed **CRI to some 17,500 people** and provided **shelter assistance**, including corrugated galvanized iron (CGI) sheets and shelter maintenance **reaching over 7,450 people** in Kachin and Shan (North) States. Additionally, **1,000 people with specific needs** received cash assistance to meet their basic needs.
- As part of **COVID-19 prevention and response**, over **6,000 people received PPEs** (face masks, hand sanitizers, and gowns).
- During the reporting period, approximately 1,150 IDP in Kachin State have returned to villages of origin or resettled to other locations. A further 15,600 IDP have indicated plans to return or settle elsewhere.
- Following consultations with IDP, **a joint action plan**, in collaboration with WFP, UNFPA, and UNDP was **finalized to support durable solution sites in Kachin State**. Some 14 locations have been prioritized as they met standards for



UNHCR and its partners are providing relief items to IDPs in Kachin State © UNHCR

sustainable return and UN agencies and local partners are currently providing material assistance through (QIP) - constructing shelters and other infrastructures.

### Coordination

- As the lead agency for the [Protection Cluster](#), UNHCR has bolstered Protection coordination and engagement, by bringing together protection partners who have the necessary expertise, resources, access and capacity. UNHCR continues to strengthen coordination and support resource mobilization at the Protection Cluster in the North-West, in response to the rapid displacement and growing humanitarian needs.

### Working in partnership

- UNHCR Myanmar [collaborates closely with relevant stakeholders](#) including UN agencies, international and local NGOs, as well as other humanitarian and development partners. The Agency is an active member of the UN Country Team (UNCT), the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) and the Cooperation Partners Group (CPG). UNHCR leads the Protection Cluster and the combined Shelter, non-food items (NFI), Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Cluster at the national and sub-national levels. In the three northern townships of Rakhine State, UNHCR coordinates the humanitarian response through the Maungdaw Inter-Agency Group (MIAG) alongside UN Resident Coordinator's Office (RCO). UNHCR also co-chairs, alongside UNDP, the South-East Working Group (SEWG), which has been the main forum for coordination and discussion related to the peace process and major development issues, and chairs state/regional Inter-Agency Coordination in Kayin and Kayah States. In response to the deteriorating situation in the South-East of Myanmar, UNDP and UNHCR have strengthened the humanitarian pillar of the SEWG.
- Read more about the [regional impact of the current crisis in Myanmar here](#).

### Accountability to affected populations (AAP)

- UNHCR Myanmar continuously takes steps to ensure [accountability to affected populations \(AAP\)](#), adopting [age, gender and diversity \(AGD\)](#) approaches throughout programmes and activities. Despite the evolving operational constraints, UNHCR endeavours to ensure women, girls, men and boys of all ages, abilities and diverse backgrounds/locations participated in their protection and solutions outcomes.
- A country-wide [Age, Gender and Diversity \(AGD\) Action Plan](#) was rolled out to understand challenges and opportunities, as well as chart measurable outcomes in UNHCR's engagement with affected populations. As part for the Action Plan, UNHCR conducted an internal [training on Community Based Protection](#) for key staff.

### Accessing civil documentation and citizenship

- Collaborating with a community of national and international partners working in various spheres, UNHCR aims to enhance understanding of challenges and opportunities in obtaining civil documentation for all people in Myanmar. Findings shared by partners following their engagement with different communities highlighted the wide-ranging impact of not having civil documentation and the importance of preventing and reducing statelessness especially amongst marginalized populations.
- In Shan (South) State, UNHCR and partners conducted [outreach and information sessions in 82 different villages to access information on housing, land and property rights and the use of legal and civil documentation](#) such as citizenship cards and birth certificates.
- In Rakhine State, UNHCR continued to [address legal and systemic issues related to statelessness, civil documentation and birth registration](#) through protection monitoring, referral of cases and awareness raising on procedures, and strategy development for affected communities, Rohingya, Kaman and Rakhine included. In June,

a joint UNICEF-UNHCR Birth Registration Workshop took place in Sittwe bringing together legal partners and key actors. The Workshop builds on a national consultation and is aimed at recommending key areas and priorities to address barriers to and improve access to birth registration for all.

**MAIN STORIES**



[ARTICLE] Life in limbo



[ARTICLE] Op-ed for World Refugee Day 2022



[VIDEO] Social Cohesion through Sports in Rakhine

**UNHCR Myanmar's programme in 2022 is in partnership with**



**UNHCR IS GRATEFUL FOR THE GENEROUS SUPPORT FROM:**



**CONTACTS**

**Delphine Crespin**, Reporting Officer, UNHCR Myanmar, [crespin@unhcr.org](mailto:crespin@unhcr.org), Tel: +95 9 880 876 783

**Fabien Faivre**, External Relations Officer, UNHCR Myanmar, [faivre@unhcr.org](mailto:faivre@unhcr.org), Tel : +95 9 408 833 688