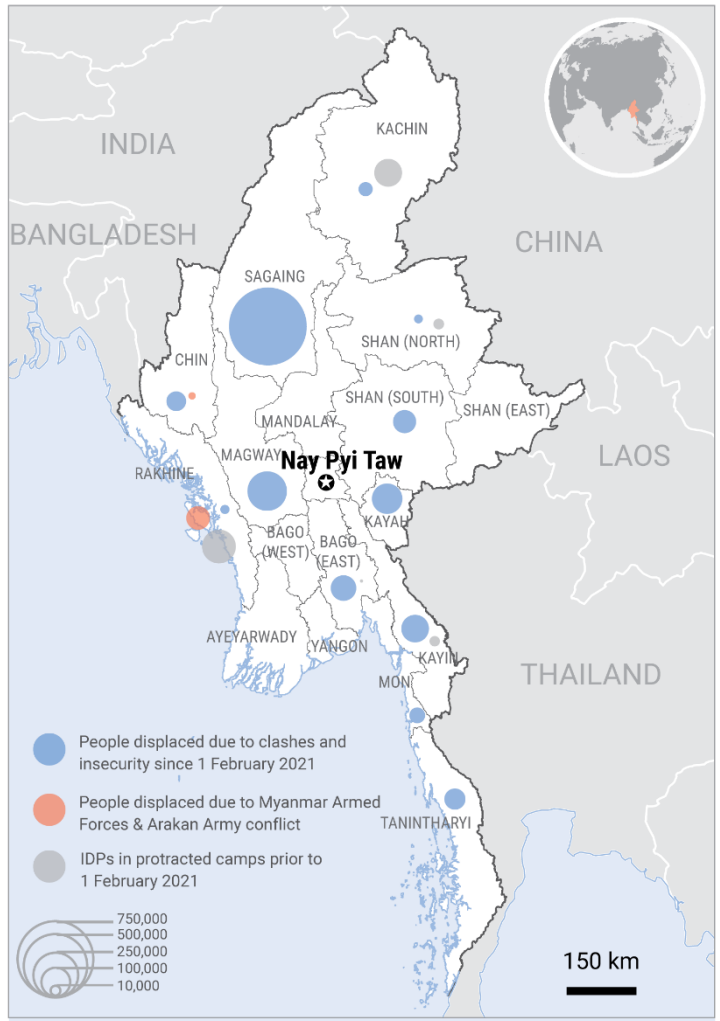


This regular update, covering humanitarian developments up to 30 April, is produced by OCHA Myanmar in collaboration with the Inter-Cluster Coordination Group and UN agencies. Response figures are based on self-reporting by organizations to clusters. The next humanitarian update will be issued at the end of May 2023.

HIGHLIGHTS & KEY MESSAGES

- Ongoing hostilities across Myanmar continue to endanger civilians, increase humanitarian needs and drive new displacement.
- More than 1.8 million remain displaced across the country. In the Northwest, the number of internally displaced people (IDPs) has exceeded 1 million.
- New displacement was triggered after an airstrike in Sagaing on 11 April in which more than 170 people, including children, were killed.
- Humanitarian operations continue to be hampered by physical and administrative obstacles.
- Camp closure and encouragement to return have continued despite protection concerns from displaced people. In Rakhine, the de facto authorities started relocating families from Kyauk Ta Lone camp to the new relocation site and aim to close the camp by mid-May.
- Acute Watery Diarrhoea (AWD) outbreaks were reported in IDP camps in Demoso and Hpruso townships in Kayah and in southern Shan in March. The risk for AWD outbreaks remains high ahead of the monsoon season.
- Therapeutic nutrition and micronutrient supplies are at risk of running out in September due to a combination of import taxation issues and underfunding.
- Four months into 2023, the [US\\$764m Myanmar Humanitarian Response Plan](#) is less than ten per cent funded. Some clusters have received no funding so far this year and are operating only using carryover funding from the end of 2022 which will soon run out. Generous funding is imperative to meet the needs across Myanmar.



KEY FIGURES*

1.8M

Total people currently internally displaced across Myanmar

1.5M

People currently displaced by clashes and insecurity since February 2021

328K

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

60K

Civilian properties estimated burnt or destroyed since February 2021.¹

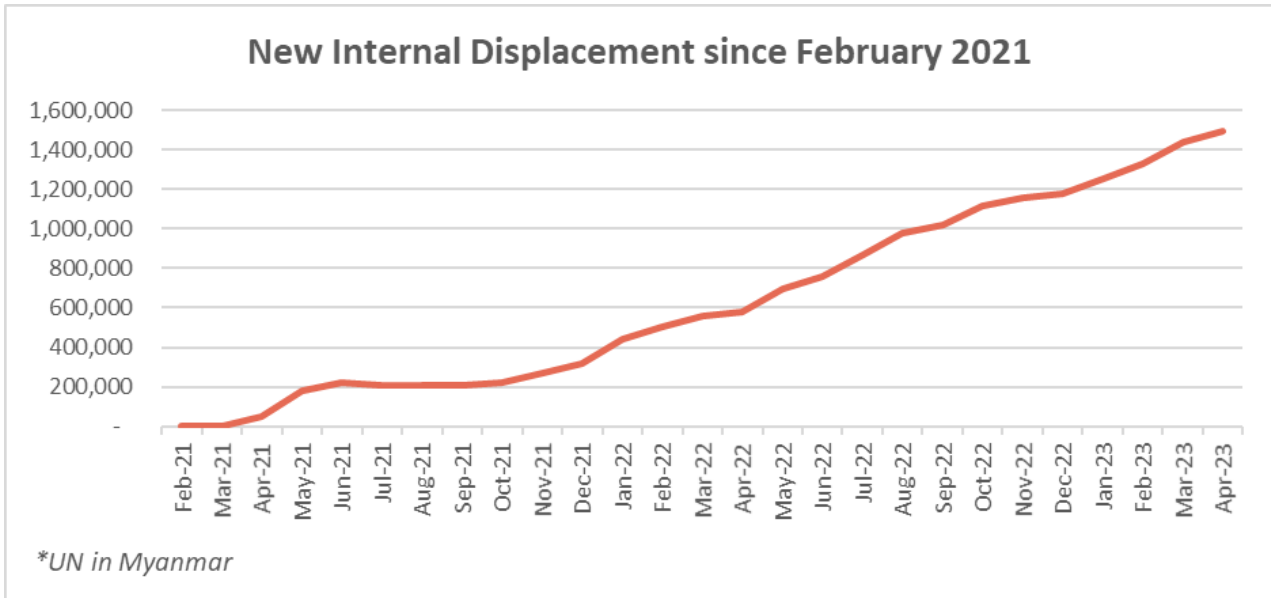
*Displacement figures fluctuate during any given month. These figures represent the number of people currently verified as displaced. Cumulative numbers for returns and displacement are not always available.

¹ Data for Myanmar (up to 28 February 2023)

SITUATION OVERVIEW

Overview

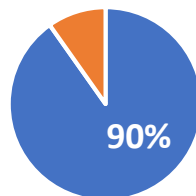
The security and humanitarian situations in Myanmar have continued to worsen amid ongoing fighting across multiple states, particularly in Kachin, the Northwest and Southeast. There are now more than 1.8 million displaced people across the country, as of 1 May, according to UN figures. IDPs are in urgent need of critical and lifesaving assistance. Humanitarian partners on the ground are responding to their needs, using various modalities in the face of mounting restrictions and risks.



Moves continue by the de facto authorities to close IDP camps and encourage returns continue in various parts of the country, including Kachin, Shan, Chin and Rakhine. Many IDPs report that they do not feel safe returning to their places of origin due to ongoing fighting, explosive ordnance risks, interruptions to services and lack of livelihoods. The movement of IDPs out of the Kyauk Ta Lone (KTL) Camp in Kyaukpyu township in Rakhine has begun with plans to have the camp closed by mid-May. In northern Shan, the closure of 15 IDP camps in Kutkai, Namhkan and Namtu townships is underway, and in southern Shan, displaced families from Kayah who were displaced in Nyaungshwe township had to move to other sites in April.

Humanitarian partners continue to provide critical and lifesaving assistance to affected and displaced people across the country, prioritizing 4.5 million out of the 17.6 million people in need in 2023. Simultaneously, the UN and its humanitarian partners continue to advocate for the end of violence, unimpeded and predictable access to people in need, and safe and voluntary return of IDPs. Generous funding of the humanitarian response, as outlined in the US\$764m Myanmar Humanitarian Response Plan is urgently required.

Myanmar Humanitarian Response Plan 2023 (US\$764.3m)



- Gap (US\$689.4m)
- Received (US\$74.9m)

Urgent relief for displaced families: UN distributions in southern Shan

In February 2023, fighting broke out between the Myanmar Armed Forces (MAF) and various armed groups in Pinlaung and Pekon townships in southern Shan, causing more than 6,000 people from Pinlaung township to flee their homes. Among them was Nang Thiri² and her family who sought refuge in Pinlaung town where they have been stranded ever since due to ongoing conflict and roadblocks. Nang Thiri and her family joined other displaced people who have been forced to seek shelter across 20 different sites in Pinlaung. All need of food, water and sanitation and other essential relief items.

“We ran away from the clashes and came here to stay with our relatives. They and other people in the town helped us from day one, but they are also struggling because of the conflict,” Nang Thiri shared.

Following extensive advocacy efforts, a joint UN distribution mission was able to reach this area in Pinlaung town and provide critical lifesaving assistance to Nang Thiri, and more than 4,100 other displaced people. During the three-day UN mission, 4-6 April, humanitarian agencies distributed critical lifesaving assistance, including food, shelter materials and other essential relief items, such as blankets, mosquito nets, mats, and kitchen set, to the displaced families based on their needs. Hygiene and dignity kits were also distributed to women and girls and clean delivery kits were distributed to 59 pregnant women.

“It is such a huge relief to get this assistance from the UN,” said Nang Thiri. *“These are basic items but are much needed for us as we left everything behind,”* she added.



Preparations for a joint UN distribution mission to Pinlaung township, Southern Shan, April 2023, © OCHA

The UN and its partners have been working tirelessly to reach affected and displaced people in southern Shan and other states and regions. In 2022, humanitarians reached at least 4.4 million people nationwide, at least once, with life-saving assistance through direct deliveries and by working with partners. The UN's humanitarian work in Myanmar has been crucial, helping millions of people in need, including IDPs, women and children, the elderly, and people with disabilities.

“It is not easy to organize a principled and coordinated response; access is a constant challenge due to the restrictions and security situation on the ground. Therefore, it takes a lot of effort and time to do the response,” shared one of the UN staff members, who participated in the joint distribution mission to southern Shan.

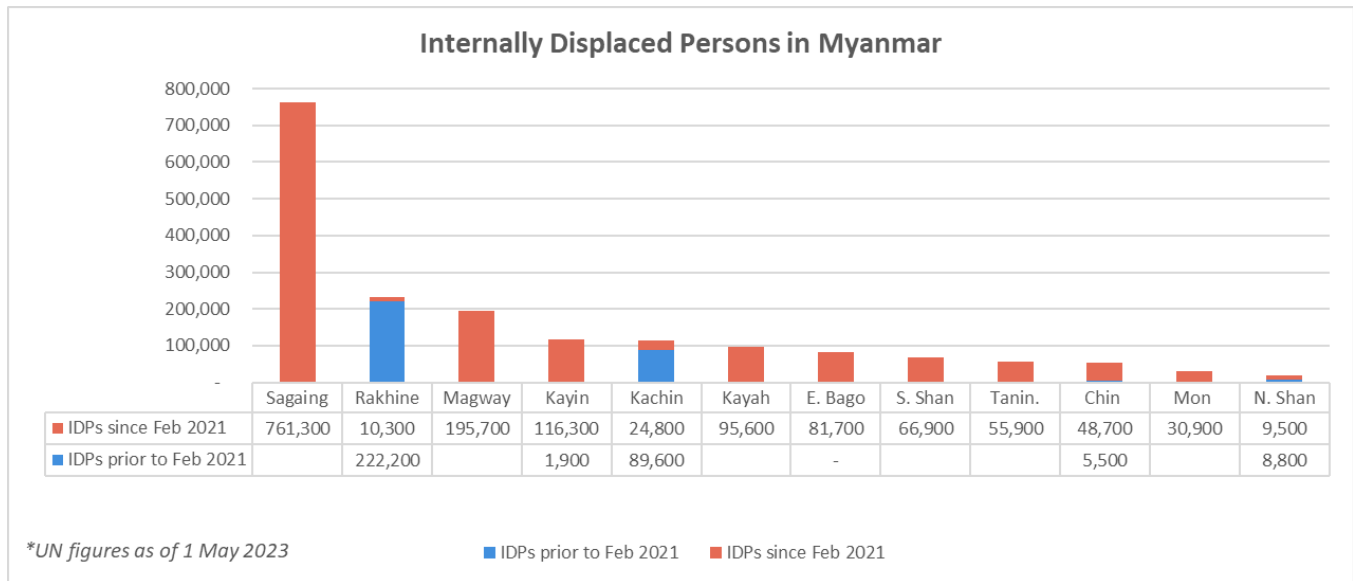
“But it is worth it, especially when we arrive on site and start distributing the relief items and see the immediate impact of our efforts on the face of the affected people,” added another member of the UN mission.

Displacement surges in the Northwest

Displacement continued to rise in conflict-affected parts of Myanmar during the past month, particularly in Kachin, the Northwest and Southeast. As of 1 May, more than 1.8 million people remained displaced across the country, according

² Name changed.

to the latest UN figures. This includes close to 1.5 million people who remain displaced due to conflict and insecurity since the military takeover and more than 328,000 people who were displaced from previous conflicts. In addition, more than 60,400 houses and other civilian properties, including churches and monasteries, have reportedly been either burnt down or destroyed across Myanmar since 1 February 2021, according to [Data for Myanmar](#).



The displacement situation is particularly concerning in the Northwest which now hosts more than a million IDPs. More than 20,000 people from 16 villages have been displaced in Sagaing following airstrikes in Kanbalu in early April which reportedly killed more than 170 people.

In Kachin, more than 11,000 people in Shwegu township have been displaced due to fighting since mid-March. Most of the IDPs are currently staying in inaccessible locations such as forests and villages, without access to humanitarian services. Humanitarian partners are engaging with the relevant actors to secure access to these IDPs to deliver emergency humanitarian assistance with support reaching 1,000 IDPs staying within host communities near Shwegu town in April.

In the Southeast, heavy fighting in and around Myawaddy township in Kayin forced about 15,000 people to flee their homes. Nearly 10,000 people crossed the border into Thailand after 25 March, according to various sources. On 10 April, about 8,400 of them reportedly returned to Myanmar, while about 900 people remained displaced at the border in Thailand. In Kayah, artillery fire and airstrikes by the MAF, as well as drone attacks by PDFs were reported in Demoso, Loikaw and Pekon townships between 2 and 16 April. Consequently, at least one civilian was reportedly killed, about 42 people, including 2 children, were injured, and several houses were damaged. Cases of diarrhoea were reported among children and adults in the IDP camps in Demoso and Hpruso townships in Kayah in mid-April, according to health partners. On 13 April, a child under five reportedly died of diarrhoea in Demoso. Weather conditions and the scarcity of clean water and medicines are believed to be behind the surge in cases in the camps. In addition to this, children have reportedly been suffering skin infections for a few months. Amid challenging access, health partners are trying to provide the necessary assistance to manage this outbreak. In southern Shan, more than 1,900 people from Kyethi and Leihka townships have been displaced in various locations within these townships due to armed clashes between 2 ethnic armed organizations on 17 April. On 25 April, air strikes hit a local hospital in Pekon township, injuring several civilians and causing extensive damage to the building.

Against this backdrop, extreme weather including tornadoes, heavy rain and hail also caused casualties and significant damage to properties in late April. On 21 April, a tornado hit 2 villages in Lewe township in Nay Pyi Taw, reportedly killing 5 people and injuring more than 100, according to media reports and the de facto authorities. Significant damage to houses and other properties was also reported. In addition, on 22 April, heavy rains and wind were reported in Myawaddy town in Kayin. As a result, six shelters in an IDP camp were reportedly destroyed. Heavy rain and hail were also reported in southern Shan and Kayah on 22 and 23 April, causing damage to IDP shelters in Demoso township in Kayah and Hsihseng township in southern Shan.

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

Humanitarian Access

Humanitarian access in Myanmar remains difficult due to heightened military hostilities, administrative constraints, and interference in humanitarian activities, which is seriously impeding relief operations meant to assist people in need. States and regions including Kayah, Kayin, Sagaing, southern Shan, and Magway continue to experience heavy fighting, while administrative restrictions are severely impeding aid work in Kayah, Kachin, Sagaing, and northern and eastern Shan. One humanitarian organization has had to close one of its field offices in Kayah due to administrative obstacles from the local de facto authorities. Additionally, two humanitarian organizations in Kayah and Kayin had to relocate staff to safer locations due to military activities near their project sites. In Kayah, an international organization had to delay a field activities due landmines in the project areas. In Magway, Sagaing, and northern Shan regions, 15 humanitarian staff were detained or arrested by armed groups. In Magway, 13 staff members were apprehended by a PDF unit. Trucks carrying UN supplies were also detained by PDFs in Sagaing before being released.

In Rakhine State, humanitarian access has significantly deteriorated with travel authorization (TA) now being more closely linked to each organization's Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) status. This new administrative obstacle has affected numerous humanitarian actors providing assistance to hundreds of thousands of displaced and vulnerable people, including heavy impact on the transportation of medical supplies. It is hoped that case-by-case TA exceptions may be possible for those in the process of finalizing MOUs.

Needs, Response, Gaps and Challenges by Cluster

The information below is provided by each of the seven operating clusters and their sub-working groups in Myanmar. Information is self-reported by aid organizations to the relevant clusters on a monthly basis for inclusion in this update. Accordingly, this section is not necessarily reflective of all humanitarian interventions undertaken on the ground but rather those voluntarily reported by partners. All partners are encouraged to report their work via the relevant clusters to ensure good visibility of gaps and response. The ICCG's Information Sharing Protocol allows for this information to be shared in a non-identifiable manner.

Education in Emergencies

Needs

- In Rakhine, there is a need for educational services for children who are among the 1,600 IDPs who had to move out of AA-MAF displacement sites and return to their homes in Kyauktaw and Paletwa townships.
- In Kachin and northern Shan, the following needs were identified in April 2023:
 - Educational aid materials and the rehabilitation of school buildings in Kyauk Ta Lone village in Bhamo township.
 - Improved access to educational facilities and provision of boarding houses for children with a disability in areas outside SAC control. Children are at risk of dropping out or discontinuing their basic education due to limited support and resources, particularly in Momauk and Mansi townships.

Response

- In Rakhine, the following responses were undertaken in April:
 - One partner facilitated the access of 4,342 children (2,206 boys and 2,136 girls) to libraries in Buthidaung, Maungdaw, Minbya, Mrauk-U, Rathedaung, and Thandwe townships. Additionally, peer learning activities were organized to share challenges and solutions with other participating libraries.
 - In IDP camps in Sittwe and Pauktaw townships, one partner organized several initiatives to promote education among volunteering teachers. These included organizing an orientation session on non-formal education for the community; launching a recruitment process for new teachers; and providing monthly incentives for volunteering teachers in Temporary Learning Centers.
 - In Ann township, one partner facilitated access to early learning activities for 188 children (93 boys and 95 girls), home-based learning activities for 678 children (327 boys and 351 girls), and life skills activities for 20 children (8 boys and 12 girls).
 - In Maungdaw township, one partner provided monthly stipends to 38 Basic Education Educators (30 male 30 and 8 female) to motivate and retain skilled professionals in the area; distributed COVID-19 prevention materials to 22 learning classrooms; organized capacity building sessions on gender, Child Protection, child safety spaces and mine risk education to 200 village education committee members

- (190 men and 10 women); provided Early Childhood Education activities for 577 children (286 boys, 291 girls), and ran a 3-day life skills ToT for 24 facilitators (22 male and 2 female).
- In Thandwe township, a music workshop was organized for 20 children (6 boys and 14 girls) from different ethnic backgrounds.
 - A total of 42 children (18 boys and 24 girls) participated in sporting events.
 - A cultural food show event was organized for 26 children (3 boys and 23 girls) from Rakhine and Chin.
 - In Rathedaung township, one partner distributed 821 student and early childhood education and 20 teacher kits; provided COVID-19 prevention materials; organized capacity building sessions and paid stipends for teachers.
- In Kayah, the following responses were undertaken in April 2023:
 - In Loikaw, Demoso and Hpruso townships, 177 volunteer teachers (21 male and 156 female) received teacher kits and incentive payments. Training sessions on Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) activities and Parent and Teacher Associations (PTAs) were also organized for these teachers.
 - 160 parents (20 male and 140 female) from 10 villages were trained as caregivers in Phekton township.
 - 787 primary school students (422 boys and 365 girls) were provided with access to teaching and learning supplies in Demoso and Bawlake townships.
 - 190 education committee members (102 male and 88 female) from 38 villages in Loikaw, Demoso and Hpruso townships participated in capacity building.
 - In Kachin and northern Shan, the following responses were undertaken in April 2023:
 - Education partners continued providing quality education, distributing library kits with tablets, constructing temporary learning spaces and libraries, using mobile libraries to reach remote areas, providing education improvement plan support, rehabilitating educational infrastructure, and providing open learning support and non-formal education (NFE) support.
 - In Bhamo and Mansi, refresher training was also conducted for volunteering educators to improve their skills and provide quality education, while new learning spaces were constructed to provide safe schooling environments.
 - In the Northwest, the following responses were undertaken in April 2023:
 - In Pakokku, one partner implemented an ECCD programme in 10 schools.
 - In Magway and Sagaing townships, activities included provision of school materials; capacity building for three monastery schools; provision of books to libraries to increase reading; organizing teaching methods and COVID-19 awareness sessions for teachers, among other measures. Computers, tablets, Wi-Fi and projectors were also provided to help with the learning process. In addition, learning and well-being in emergencies (LWiE) training was organized and a Peer Learning Cycle with volunteer teachers will be organized quarterly. Incentive payments of 100,000 MMK will be provided for one volunteer teacher each month.
 - In northern Shan, the following responses were undertaken in March:
 - Partners provided various training sessions for more than 900 teachers, school children and other participants in villages and IDP camps across Hsipaw, Namhkan, Namhsan and Namtu townships.
 - One partner continued to provide a monthly basic stipend cash support to 83 teachers in 27 villages in 4 townships.
 - UNICEF has pre-positioned contingency supplies, including student, school and recreation kits for 20 locations for approximately 500 basic and middle education students who are affected by displacement in northern Shan.
 - Partners provided a 3-month basic literacy class for 200 youths, and Education in Emergency (EiE) activities in 12 camps in Kutkai and Namhkan townships in March and April and provided Better Learning Programme (BLP) activities in a village in Lashio township in April.
 - An INGO and a local partner provided gender-related education activities in 15 villages, as well as advanced skill training for 300 teachers from 70 schools in Lashio, Namtu and Tangyan townships in March and April.
 - In southern Shan, education partners provided Early Childcare Education for 1,017 children (497 boys and 520 girls), Basic Education for 3,482 students (1,733 boys and 1,749 girls), and 718 adolescents (290 boys and 428 girls), though a total of 145 facilitators.

Gaps & Constraints

- In Rakhine, delays in project implementation are being reported due to lack of TAs for partners without valid MoUs.
- In the Northeast, the following gaps and constraints were identified during the reporting period:
 - Due to lack of funding, plans to construct basic educational infrastructure and provide learning materials in villages of return in Waingmaw township have not been possible. Cluster partners have been working on bridge this gap, but transportation difficulties have slowed down the delivery.
 - Ongoing conflict and the imposition of martial law on some townships are hindering the transport of educational materials to project areas.

Food Security

Needs

- Nationwide, 15.2 million people are estimated to be moderately or severely food insecure in 2023.
- According to the last FAO/WFP Food Security Assessment which sampled nearly 4,000 households across 14 states and regions between December 2022 and January 2023, some seasonal improvements are observed, although the general food security situation remains worrisome:
 - The number of people reporting COVID-19 and income earning related shocks has declined from previous rounds; however, high food and fuel prices continue to limit households' abilities to meet their basic needs.
 - The poorest households are still disproportionately affected by economic shocks and household-specific shocks.
 - Violence/conflict being mentioned as a shock was more location-specific, affecting poor and better-off households equally, and continues to drive food insecurity.
 - The share of producers of vegetables, fruits and pulses who reported a drop in production declined, but this trend does not apply to rice, the main food product in Myanmar. Rather, 65 per cent of rice producers and 61 per cent of cash-croppers estimate that their harvest was less than a typical year suggesting potential supply and price issues ahead.
 - Livestock breeding conditions were reportedly good and there were fewer distress sales. For cattle, however, selling prices remain low regardless of distress sales, and difficulties accessing pastures remain.
 - Fewer people reported having to sell household assets and some improvement was observed in household food consumption among crop producers following the harvest, and among better-off households.
 - Conversely, the food security outcomes of rural households, livestock producers, and vulnerable people previously associated with food insecurity—such as non-permanent residents³ and households with people with a disability and children under five years of age—remains worrying. Shocks such as high food prices and loss of employment worsened these negative outcomes.

Response

- In March 2023, 9 partners provided food assistance to 556,161 people in 11 townships covering 37 locations in Magway, Rakhine, Kachin, Shan, Kachin, Bago, Chin and Kayah, including in protracted camps and resettlement sites. More than half (55 per cent) received cash or mixed rice-plus-cash in locations where they can access functioning markets. Two partners provided multi-purpose cash for food assistance to 23,765 people in 13 townships covering 80 locations in Kachin, Kachin, Sagaing in March.
- Five partners provided agricultural kits for crops and vegetables, and seed packages to 51,652 people in 259 locations within 16 townships across Ayeyarwady, Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, southern Shan, and Yangon in March 2023.
- Two partners organized farmer field training for 2,621 people in 36 locations across 5 townships in Kachin and Mandalay in March.
- One partner provided livestock treatment and vaccination support to 997 people in 2 townships in Ayeyarwady and Mandalay.

Gaps & Constraints

- In southern Shan, the food distribution to IDPs in March could not be conducted due to pending approval by the de facto authorities.

³ Migrated households, IDPs and refugees.

- In northern Rakhine, 28,000 people from 58 villages did not receive food assistance due to access constraints.



Needs

- Nationwide, particularly in conflict affected areas, there is an ongoing need for essential medicine and medical supplies, life-saving primary healthcare services, and referral support for affected and displaced people.
- In Kachin, a rapid needs assessment in eight IDP camps identified a need for essential healthcare services, particularly dignity kits for girls and women, and cash and voucher assistance for referrals over complicated pregnancies and deliveries.
- Cluster partners identified needs for essential healthcare services and referral support for crisis-affected people in three townships in Kayah and four townships in Shan.
- Acute Watery Diarrhea (AWD) outbreaks were reported in IDP camps in Chin in February and in southern Shan and Kayah in March. The risk of AWD outbreaks will remain high with the upcoming monsoon season. Community awareness raising and pre-positioning of medical supplies are urgently needed.

Response

- In Kachin, the following responses were undertaken in March:
 - Distribution of hygiene kits and COVID-19 items to nearly 700 newly displaced people in 3 townships.
 - Provision of essential primary healthcare services and education to 110 people in 1 township.
 - Provision of 2,976 consultations by mobile clinics through the Early Warning Alert and Response System (EWARS) in Kachin.
- In northern Shan, the following responses were undertaken in March:
 - Provision of 1,878 tele-consultations through 9 mobile clinics in 29 IDP sites and 9 villages in 5 townships.
 - Provision of emergency obstetric care services to 62 people, emergency-childcare services to 42 people and 7 assisted deliveries in 1 township.
 - Performed 2,300 malaria tests in 4 townships and provided effective treatment to positive cases.
 - Provided nearly 300 long-lasting insecticidal nets in 2 IDPs camps.
- In southern Shan and Kayah, the following activities were undertaken in March:
 - Provision of 21 emergency obstetric care referrals, 27 emergency childcare referrals and 3 other referrals in 2 townships in Kayah, as well as the distribution of multi-purpose cash assistance.
 - Distribution of hygiene kits to new IDP sites in one affected township in southern Shan.
 - Distribution of 3,000 sachets of oral rehydration salts (ORS) and 4,200 Zinc tablets to IDPs 1 township in southern Shan.
 - To stop the transmission of AWD, local partners are raising awareness around prevention and control, and are distributing aquatabs and ORS with the support from UNICEF.
- In Mon, Kayin, Tanintharyi and eastern Bago, the following responses were undertaken in March:
 - Provision of 168 emergency obstetric care referrals and 85 emergency childcare referrals in 2 townships in Kayin.
 - Nine mobile clinics provided 292 people with essential primary healthcare services and distributed 526 hygiene kits, 4,800 dignity kits and more than 2,500 clean delivery kits to crisis-affected people in 6 townships in Kayin and 2 townships in Mon.
- In Rakhine, 11,481 consultations were provided in 8 townships through the EWARS.
- With the upcoming monsoon season, WHO will conduct a risk assessment and review minimum emergency stocks of life-saving supplies.

Gaps & Constraints

- Access to essential medicines and medical supplies is being impeded in all crisis-affected areas of the country, with severe transport constraints.
- In Kachin and northern Shan, implementing partners are restricted from providing humanitarian assistance because of safety and security issues.
- In conflict-affected areas of Kayah and in Kayin, healthcare services, essential medicines - including drugs for primary health care services and family planning contraceptives - medical supplies, and referrals are severely hampered because of armed conflict, travel restrictions and issues at security checkpoints.
- In Rakhine, waiting times for approval of travel authorization remain a major constraint for implementing partners to conduct real-time response activities.

- In newly established IDP sites in Kachin, information on needs is hard to consolidate due to the lack of assigned camp/site leaders to represent affected people.
- In the Northwest, particularly in Sagaing and Chin, partners were forced to suspend their activities due to the escalation in fighting. In addition, the shutdown of telecommunications and the blockade of transportation services is impacting health partners and the communities they serve.

Nutrition

Needs

- Nutrition partners are forecasting a potential pipeline break in September for therapeutic nutrition supplies and micronutrients if they do not receive additional funds and resolve import delays.
- US\$5.8 million is needed for ready-to-use therapeutic food (RUTF) and micronutrients, to avoid a projected gap in supplies in September. If financial support is not received urgently, around 7,500 children could die from malnutrition in Myanmar this year, out of nearly 40,000 severely affected.
- In Kachin and the Southeast in particular, there are reports of micronutrient shortages due to prolonged delays in releasing supplies due to lack of issuance of tax exemption certificates (TECs) for therapeutic and preventative nutrition supplies. Advocacy efforts at the highest levels are required to address these delays.
- In the Southeast, due to restrictions on the transport of nutrition supplies, cash and voucher assistance (CVA) will be used to support people's nutrition needs in these areas.

Response

- In Rakhine, Nutrition Cluster partners continued to screen children for severe acute malnutrition (SAM) and moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) during March. A total of 401 SAM children and 905 MAM children were identified and provided with the appropriate life-saving and preventative nutritional therapy.
- In Rakhine, partners continue to provide preventative nutrition support despite temporary shortages of micronutrients in March:
 - Partners distributed micronutrients, including multiple micronutrient powder (MNP) and iron-folate, to 20,339 children under 5 years (10,327 boys and 10,012 girls). In addition, 3,220 pregnant and lactating mothers received blanket supplementary feeding provisions and 585 Pregnant and Lactating Women (PLW) received individual nutrition counselling.
- In Kachin, partners provided the following responses in March:
 - A total of 4,184 children and 1,008 PLW were assessed for nutrition status.
 - 33 PLW and 24 children were newly enrolled in the Blanket Supplementary Feeding Program (BSFP) and 115 children and 526 PLW received micronutrient supplementation and screening in 10 townships.
- In the Northwest, partners provided the following responses in March:
 - 1,484 of primary caregivers of children aged 0-23 months in 28 townships received Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) counselling.
 - In Magway, 169 children and 46 PLWs were admitted to the Targeted Supplementary Feeding Programme (TSFP) in Magway, Minbu and Natmauk townships.
 - In Chin, 114 children and 23 PLWs were newly enrolled to the BSFP in Paletwa township.
 - The Cluster provided a face-to-face capacity building training to two partners to ensure appropriate and lifesaving treatment of children affected by malnutrition.

Gaps & Constraints

- A pipeline rupture is very likely due to an administrative impasse that is delaying the release of supplies due to tax exemption requirements. Currently, 8,480 cartons of RUTF sourced by UNICEF are being held in bonded warehouses, where they have been since November 2021. These supplies need a TEC prior to customs clearance.
- In Rakhine, delayed travel authorisations continued to be an obstacle to providing timely responses. Partners report a two-week delay in treatment of children with SAM because of lack of TAs in a township in central Rakhine.
- According to partners, 55 out of 319 villages (17 per cent) where the malnutrition burden is high have poor accessibility to the nearest treatment centres in major townships in northern Rakhine. Nutrition partners are working to expand services in these areas.
- In the Northwest, safety and security continue to affect access to life-saving therapeutic nutrition services.



Needs

- Armed conflict and the deterioration of living conditions are severely affecting the mental and psychosocial conditions facing displaced and affected children. The violence experienced by family members when people are arrested, killed, or injured is having a severe impact on both caregivers and children, and many children are being observed to have indications of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).
- Landmines and explosive remnants of war (ERW) remain a major threat to the life and safety of civilians in Myanmar. Landmines are being laid indiscriminately within communities by parties to the conflict. While the full picture of contamination remains unclear, data on explosive ordnance incidents indicates that contamination is having a devastating impact on people's lives and movement across conflict-affected parts of the country.
- Alarming, Child Protection partners report that a lack of livelihoods opportunities and reduced access to education are leading to more child marriages, with one partner reporting the case of a 13-year-old being married off.
- Frontline workers and community-based volunteers in conflict-affected areas face safety and security risks, particularly in terms of forced recruitment.
- In the Southeast, the following concerns and needs were identified:
 - In Kayah and southern Shan, death and injury due to indiscriminate shelling; arrest and detention; destruction of civilian property; and restrictions on humanitarian access remained major protection concerns. The main areas of concern were locations with intense fighting, including use of airstrikes, in Demoso, Mese, Bawlake and Shadaw in Kayah, and Pinlaung, Kunhing, Pekon in southern Shan.
 - In eastern Bago, Kayin, Mon and Tanintharyi, arbitrary arrest and detention; destruction of civilian properties, including schools and religious buildings; and death and injury due to indiscriminate shelling and landmines remained the main protection risks. This is in addition to the complex challenges created by restrictions on access, roadblocks and increased scrutiny of humanitarian actors.
 - Restrictions on transportation of essential goods were significant in Demoso and Hpruso in Kayah, and Pekon in southern Shan and have resulted in food and fuel shortages among IDPs and host communities.
 - There is need for awareness sessions on gender-based violence (GBV) and Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) at IDP camps in western Hpruso in Kayah.
- In the Northwest, there is a particular need to enhance protection for children and survivors of GBV and explosive ordnance incidents. While the legal system is not properly functioning, GBV cases have been under-reported and allegations of conflict-related sexual and gender-based violence perpetrated by armed actors remain alarming. Psychosocial distress was also identified as a growing issue for affected people.
- In Kachin, according to a field assessment in Shwegu township in mid-April, there is an urgent need for humanitarian assistance and protection services for newly displaced people in Shwegu town. Partners also reported that displaced women and girls need GBV services in Shwegu, in Hpakant, Momauk and Waingmaw townships. GBV partners report increasing cases of sexual violence and intimate partner violence among IDPs, particularly in Shwegu township.
- In Rakhine, the following concerns and needs continued to prevail:
 - Moves continue to prematurely return IDPs to their villages of origin, without any commitments to repair destroyed homes and infrastructure, and without assurances for their personal safety and security. Incentives are being offered in some locations and many camps are being closed. IDPs remain concerned about a possible resumption of armed clashes between the Arakan Army and MAF. In particular, in Kyaukpyu, the de facto authorities have continued with plans to close Kyauk Ta Lone IDP Camp and have started relocating the IDPs to the new site. IDPs have been given until 15 May to move to the relocation site.
 - Mine action, including clearance and explosive ordnance risk education (EORE), are urgently needed, especially in Kyauktaw, Minbya, Myebon and Ponnagyun townships, which have witnessed heavy fighting over recent months.
 - IDPs in protracted displacement camps continue to experience systematic exploitation and discrimination in accessing basic services. An increasing number are risking their lives in attempts to leave Myanmar using irregular travel routes, in search of better living conditions and opportunities, with many arrested or detained in Myanmar for not having the required or legal documentation to move around.

Response

- The Mine Action Area of Responsibility (MA AoR) partners are working on an initiative to rollout a systematic delivery of EORE to aid workers across Kachin, northern Shan, Rakhine and the Northwest.
- The Protection Cluster and OCHA continue to advocate that the return of IDPs should be voluntary, among both the national resettlement of IDPs and IDP camp closures.
- Child Protection case management partners are prioritizing justice for children by following up with those arrested/released and are referring them to further suitable services. Child Protection in Emergencies (CPiE) trainings and workshops were provided to partners at the sub-national level in March to increase the capacity and breadth of CPiE. At the national level, the GBV-CP Working Group is finalizing child marriage messages and guidance for safe shelters for GBV survivors with integrated guidance for children accompanying the survivor.
- In the Southeast, Protection partners undertook the following responses in March:
 - UNHCR conducted 25 rapid protection assessments of IDPs' situations in Kayin, Kayah, and Tanintharyi; 77 post-distribution monitoring surveys among people with specific needs who received cash assistance in 2022 in Kayin, Mon, eastern Bago and Tanintharyi; and 30 post-distribution monitoring surveys among families who received NFI support in 2022.
 - UNHCR distributed NFIs to 1,342 IDPs families in Taungoo and Yedashe townships in eastern Bago and Hlaingbwe and Hpapun townships in Kayin State and approved a list of 256 people with specific needs for cash assistance.
 - GBV awareness session and case management were provided in project locations, along with multi-sectoral responses of livelihoods and clinical support. GBV referrals were provided for eight individuals in southern Shan and Kayah.
 - Through CSO partners, UNFPA distributed 5,000 dignity kits to conflict-affected displaced women and girls in Kayin State, Mon State and eastern Bago Region.
- In the Northwest, GBV, child protection, mine action and other protection interventions continued during March despite significant access constraints, security concerns and funding limitations. More interventions are required, particularly in conflict affected and hard-to-reach areas, especially Sagaing.
- In Rakhine, the Protection Cluster and partners undertook the following responses in March and April:
 - Continued to advocate for access to humanitarian services ranging from GBV, protection, child protection, MHPSS and mine action for the affected people.
 - In close coordination with Communication with Communities WG, protection partners conducted awareness-raising about the international standards on conducive conditions on safe, informed and self-choice returns.
 - Continued to enhance and strengthen referrals of detention cases and irregular movements and conducted a roundtable workshop to finalize a detention referral pathways Standard Operating Procedure, streamlining responsibilities and interventions among relevant agencies.
 - Continued mapping protection site focal points for the current AA-MAF displacement sites and has successfully reached 68 sites through 6 general protection agencies in central Rakhine townships.
- In Kachin, the following responses were undertaken:
 - Mine action partners are assessing the situation of landmine contamination in return areas.
 - Protection partners supported seven cases of people with specific needs in Hpakant township.
 - The Durable Solutions Working Group developed a guidance note on emergency preparedness and measures in the event of mass forced movement out of camps as a result of camps closure orders in Kachin.
- In northern Shan, partners undertook the following activities:
 - GBV partners, in partnership with CSOs, distributed dignity kits and hygiene kits to displaced people in Lashio township; dignity kits were also distributed to the recently displaced women and girls in Nawngkhio township.
 - An INGO conducted an assessment for case management of forced recruitment for 13 civilians who were abducted from Nay Win Ni Camp in Namhkan township in late March. The INGO continues to provide activities against forced recruitment and human trafficking in 30 villages in Kutkai, Muse, Namhkam and Namtu townships in March.
 - One partner provided cash assistance to the remaining 35 households in the Kyusot camp in Namtu township in early March.
 - One partner conducted EORE awareness session for 300 participants, provided GBV awareness sessions for 305 participants, Child Protection awareness session for 295 participants, and positive parenting awareness sessions to 35 parents and adults in Hseni and Nawngkhio townships in March.
 - Three partners conducted safe migration activities for 120 adults in 18 villages in Hsipaw, Kutkai, Kyaukme and Muse townships in March.

- Two Child Protection partners provided mental health and psychosocial support activities in child-friendly spaces in four villages in Tangyan and Mongyai townships, and one local partner provided legal support for three victims of child rape in Lashio and Muse townships in March and April.

Gaps & Constraints

- Ongoing armed conflict, the expansion of martial law locations, and heavy restrictions on movement, are resulting in shortages of essential supplies, especially medicine and food, and delays to program implementation in affected areas.
- Child Protection case management is becoming unmanageable with the increasing caseload and access constraints.
- In the Southeast, the following challenges were prominent in March:
 - Access remains a huge challenge due to unpredictable armed clashes, landmines, extensive road blockages and checkpoints. In southern Shan and Kayah, access restrictions have increased significantly.
 - Accessing the judicial system is more complicated, with people reporting they do not feel they have received justice or fair court proceedings.
- In the Northwest, shortfalls in funding, humanitarian access constraints (movement and transport restrictions), and safety and security concerns for staff continued to have an impact on the delivery of humanitarian assistance at a time when needs and displacement are increasing. Civilian access to goods and information in some locations has been limited with travel restrictions. Frequent telecommunication cut offs in parts of Chin and Sagaing by the de facto authorities are also contributing to information gaps.
- In Rakhine, protection partners are still facing difficulties reaching affected people despite the ongoing ceasefire agreement. Due to access restrictions by the ULA/AA in Kyauktaw, some partners are having to provide lifesaving GBV case management services remotely with the support of incentive workers in the field. A remote monitoring exercise of project locations in Kyauktaw and Mrauk-U in Rakhine found that there are no organizations that are providing livelihoods support to affected people, including to displaced women and girls in the IDP camps, who would like to attend vocational trainings since they do not have any income. The Protection Cluster is currently addressing this issue.
- In the Northeast, the following challenges were prominent in March:
 - Humanitarian access and responses to affected and displaced people, particularly in Shwegu and Nawngkhio township in northern Shan, remain challenging.
 - GBV services are limited in Puta-O, in Kachin due to a lack of partners. The AoR is looking for ways to address this gap.

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

Needs

- Nationwide, IDPs are reportedly in need of basic shelter and NFI assistance. There is also a need to enhance camp management and coordination capacity to better manage the different displacement sites.
- In Kachin, more than 1,000 people remain displaced in 6 sites in Shwegu township since March. They are in urgent need of basic shelter and NFI assistance.
- Across the Southeast, about 32,500 people were displaced in March. According to partners, they urgently need shelter materials, such as bamboo, wood, and thatch, as well as clothes, mosquito nets, blankets, solar lights and batteries.
- In Rakhine, more than 80 shelters in AA-MAF displacement sites in Kyauktaw, Ponnagyun and Rathedaung townships were partially destroyed by strong winds on 20 March and need repair.
- In the Northwest, more than 5,600 IDPs in Falam, Hakha and Kale townships need emergency relief items. In addition, 50 houses that were damaged by arson attacks in Falam and Hakha townships in March urgently needed repair materials.

Response

- Despite challenges and access constraints, cluster partners continued to support people in need across the country - more than 20,000 people received shelter and NFI support in March.
- In Kachin, cluster partners provided the following assistance in March:
 - Distribution of NFIs to 725 IDPs in hard-to-reach areas in Mohnyin township.
 - 65 IDPs in Waingmaw township received tarpaulins.
 - Cash, shelter and NFI assistance to 180 IDPs affected by a fire in a camp in Momauk township.
 - Cash and NFI assistance to 10 people affected by a fire in a resettlement site in Myitkyina township.

- Cluster partners managed to reach about 400 IDPs from Shwegu township and provided them with basic shelter items and NFIs. Partners are working to reach the remaining IDPs.
- Across the Southeast, cluster partners provided the following assistance in March:
 - Nearly 1,900 IDPs in Hlaingbwe and Hpapun townships in Kayin received NFI assistance and more than 4,500 IDPs in Hpapun and Thaton townships in Mon received shelter and NFI assistance.
 - More than 3,000 affected and displaced people received NFI kits and nearly 2,100 affected and displaced people received cash assistance in eastern Bago, Kayah, Kayin and Tanintharyi.
- In central Rakhine, cluster partners have reconstructed 232 longhouses for more than 10,200 IDPs in Rohingya and Kaman camps in Sittwe township since the beginning of 2023. In addition, funding was confirmed to deliver basic shelter kit assistance to more than 4,500 displaced households in AA-MAF displacement sites.
- In the Northwest, cluster partners provided winter kits to 10,000 IDPs in various displacement sites in Falam, Hakha, Matupi and Thantlang townships in Chin. Partners also provided cash assistance to 300 people affected by arson attacks in March in Tamu township in Sagaing.

Gaps & Constraints

- Access constraints, as well as safety and security risks, including for humanitarian workers, continue to cause serious impediments to the humanitarian response across the country. Delivery of humanitarian aid to affected and displaced people was hindered at checkpoints, resulting in delays and gaps in the humanitarian response to people in need.
- In addition, TA requirements have resulted in delays and gaps in the overall humanitarian response.
- In Kachin, due to limited access, more than 1,000 people displaced since mid-March in Shwegu township are being deprived of emergency assistance. Humanitarians are advocating with the de facto authorities to obtain access.
- Access constraints and safety and security risks throughout the Southeast. Roads into villages in Bilin township in Mon were completely blocked and transportation was restricted. Due to ongoing armed clashes around the project areas, the workplans are being frequently rescheduled and the distribution of humanitarian aid is often delayed.
- In Rakhine, CCCM actors continue to operate largely without dedicated funding for activities in AA-MAF displacement sites. This leaves displacement sites without systematic service monitoring. This exacerbates the information gap humanitarian responders have about needs, while limiting the ability to rapidly coordinate responses. Limitations imposed by the de facto authorities on transporting certain humanitarian aid make successful delivery of more robust shelter assistance unlikely.
- In the Northwest, access restrictions delayed the distribution of NFI assistance to more than 1,000 IDPs in Myaing township and shelter items to 370 IDPs in Pakokku township in Magway.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Needs

- In the Northwest, in February, WASH partners assessed 399 out of the existing 701 displacement sites. Fifty-one (51) per cent of the assessed sites still lack appropriate sanitation; and 98 per cent of them had hygiene gaps due to shortfalls in funding and access constraints (Cluster 3W analysis, February 2023).
- In Rakhine, 54 per cent of 193 AA-MAF displacement sites still lacked sufficient water; 37 per cent remain without appropriate sanitation; and 71 per cent still experienced hygiene gaps (Cluster 3W analysis, February 2023).
- In Kachin, more than 1,000 people in Shwegu township who were displaced into forests and villages around Shwegu town need of hygiene items according to initial assessments.
- In northern Shan, according to partners, more than 2,100 IDPs in Kutkai, Muse, Namhkan and Namtu townships urgently need WASH assistance, including 444 emergency latrines, 12 water supply systems, 4 tube wells, emergency hygiene items and water purification materials.
- In the Southeast, more than 1,400 displaced households in Myawaddy and Kawkawreik townships in Kayin and Tanintharyi township in Tanintharyi need hygiene kits, water purification sachets, water containers, tarpaulins, and dignity kits for women and girls. In Demoso township in Kayah, 1,000 litre water tanks were distributed in IDP camps, benefiting 3,027 people.

Response

- In Rakhine, the following responses were undertaken in March:
 - WASH partners organized 358 hygiene promotion sessions and provided critical WASH supplies in 113 of the 193 AA-MAF displacement sites across 10 townships, reaching 54,763 IDPs in March.

These supplies included 1,993 hygiene kits, 5,873 sanitary pads for women and girls, more than 3,637 bars of soap, 1,922 jerrycans/water buckets, 1,246 water filters and 20,080 water purification tablets.

- Regular monthly WASH responses continued for nearly 127,000 Rohingya people in protracted camps in March.
- In Kachin, partners distributed 222 hygiene kits to newly displaced people in Shwegu township during the last week of March.
- In northern Shan, WASH partners provided four sets of emergency latrines and three water tanks in resettlement sites in Muse township and a new displacement site in Tangyan township in March.
- In southern Shan and Kayah, the following responses were undertaken in March:
 - Cash assistance was provided for water trucking in 30 IDP camps in Demoso, Hsihseng and Pinlaung townships.
 - 16,000 water purification tablets, 1,000 bars of soap, 76 waste bins, school hygiene kits and 120 tarpaulins for 5,500 IDPs were distributed.
- In the Northwest, WASH partners distributed 61,200 water purification tablets, 1,000 jerrycans/water buckets, 742 hygiene kits, more than 241 bars of soap and 366 sanitary pads in March, reaching:
 - 40,263 IDPs in 231 displacement sites across 6 townships in Chin.
 - 6,054 IDPs in 40 new displacement sites in 3 townships in Magway.
 - 89,241 IDPs in 128 displacement sites across 12 townships in Sagaing.

Gaps & Constraints

- Only 2.4 per cent of the total 2023 HRP WASH Cluster requirements have been funded. In particular, there is a funding gap to support operation and maintenance of WASH facilities in protracted IDP camps and new WASH facilities in relocation and resettlement sites in northern Shan.
- In Rakhine, access constraints and MoU requirements for WASH partners continued to impede the granting of TAs and the delivery of humanitarian items. Land issues continued to present a significant challenge for WASH infrastructure with people who are claiming land ownership requesting land compensation fees, selling land to others, and putting up fences near latrines, particularly in protracted IDP camps in Sittwe township.
- In Kachin, access to displacement sites in Shwegu township is limited due to ongoing fighting and safety and security risks.
- Humanitarian access remains limited to new displacement sites in Mongmit, Muse and Nawngkhio townships in northern Shan, as well as at the border area of southern Shan and Kayah.

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