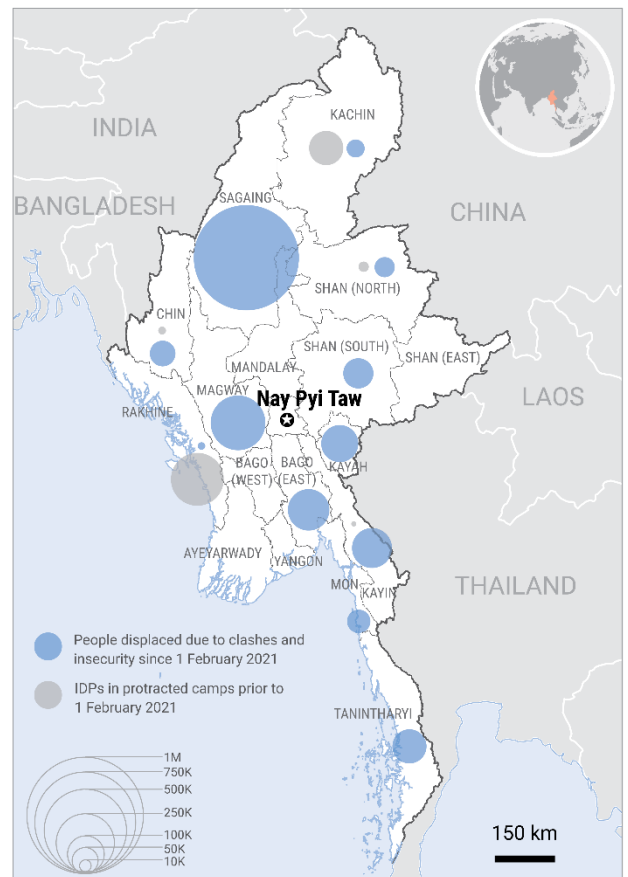


This regular update, covering humanitarian developments up to 8 November, is produced by OCHA Myanmar in collaboration with the Inter-Cluster Coordination Group and UN agencies. Response figures are based on self-reporting by organizations to clusters. The next humanitarian update will be issued end of November 2023.

HIGHLIGHTS & KEY MESSAGES

- A combination of active conflict, monsoon floods, and access barriers is worsening the humanitarian situation facing vulnerable communities nationwide.
- A new front of conflict has intensified in Northern Shan where fighting between Ethnic Armed Organizations (EAOs) and the Myanmar Armed Forces (MAF) has displaced almost 50,000 people since 26 October.
- More than two million people are now internally displaced nationwide, many of them multiple times, eroding their coping capacity with each move.
- Relentless monsoon floods, especially in the Southeast, have caused severe economic and agricultural losses, exacerbating an already critical humanitarian situation as a result of conflict.
- Administrative and physical restrictions are amplifying suffering by delaying or forcing the cancellation of aid deliveries.
- Local and international humanitarian partners remain committed to staying and delivering, reaching at least 2.5 million people by end of September 2023.
- The combined [US\\$887 million Humanitarian Response Plan and Cyclone Mocha Flash Appeals](#) remain critically underfunded, with only 28 per cent of the required funding received.
- Immediate additional financial assistance and the easing of access restrictions are imperative for the humanitarian community to address urgent needs.



KEY FIGURES*

2M

Total people currently internally displaced across Myanmar

1.7M

People currently displaced by clashes and insecurity since February 2021

306K

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

77K

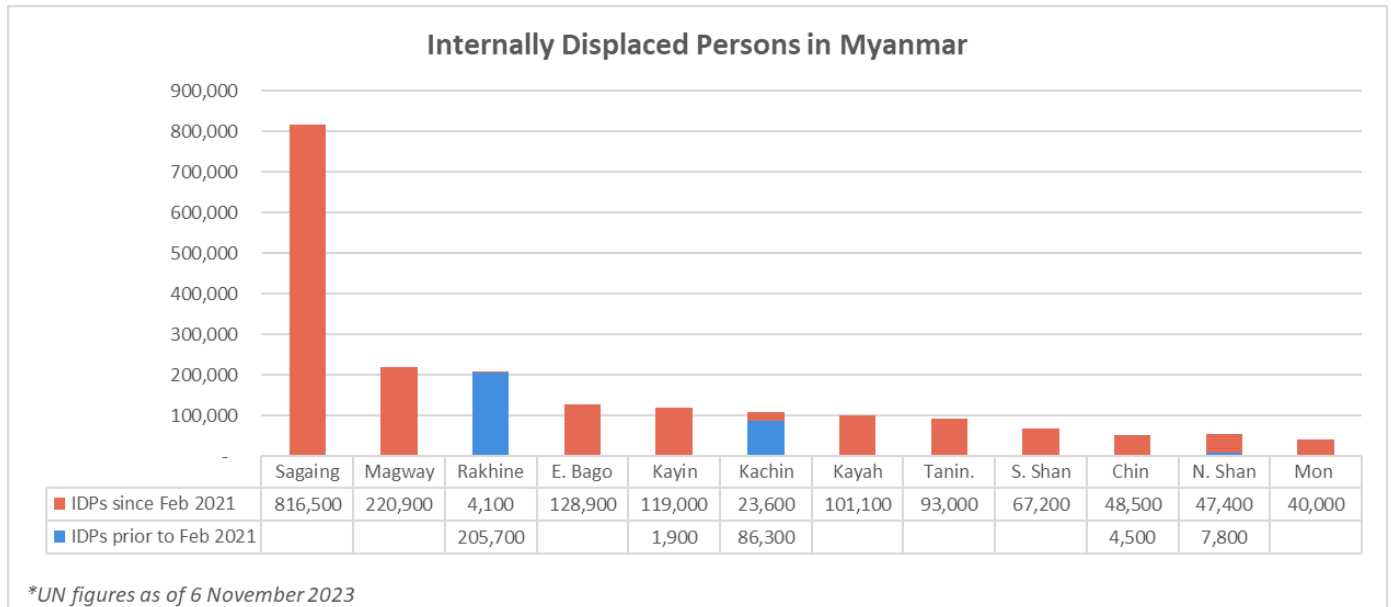
Civilian properties estimated burnt or destroyed since February 2021.¹

*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 31 October 2023)

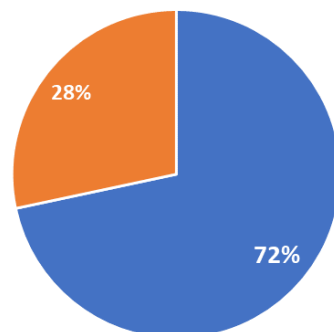
SITUATION OVERVIEW

Active conflict, monsoon floods, underfunding and restrictions on humanitarian activities are contributing to deteriorating living situations for vulnerable communities, including internally displaced people. More than two million people remain internally displaced nationwide, with many having experienced repeated displacement. Displaced families are enduring precarious conditions while they are on the move, often seeking refuge in the jungle without proper shelter. Almost half of the country's population is estimated to be living in poverty and an estimated 12.9 million people are estimated to be severely or moderately food insecure. Affected people are facing heightened protection risks, particularly due to contamination by explosive ordnance, including landmines.



This multifaceted crisis has not only deepened the needs of vulnerable groups but has also severely restricted their access to essential services and humanitarian assistance. Relief efforts of both local and international humanitarian organizations have been obstructed. In the face of these formidable obstacles, partners remain resolute in their commitment to assisting those in need. By the end of September, they had reached at least 2.5 million people, responding to escalating needs through diverse and flexible access approaches, including growing numbers of people in the Northwest and an expanded proportion of IDPs. However, despite escalating needs, the 2023 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) and the Cyclone Mocha Flash Appeal remain severely underfunded, leaving thousands of desperate communities without the vital support they require.

Myanmar Humanitarian Response Plan + Cyclone Mocha Flash Appeal- 2023 (US\$886.7m)*



■ Gap (US\$635.4m) ■ Received (US\$251.3m)

Escalation in humanitarian needs amid ongoing hostilities

More than 1.7 million people have been forced from their homes due to violence and insecurity since the 2021 military takeover. This is in addition to more than 306,000 people who were displaced during previous conflict, taking total

displacement to more than 2 million people. The Northwest continues to host the highest number of new IDPs with more than a million people displaced in Chin, Magway and Sagaing, while the Southeast accounts for more than half a million IDPs across Kayah, eastern Bago, Kayin, southern Shan, Mon, and Tanintharyi. An estimated 77,000 civilian properties, including houses, religious structures, education, and health facilities, have reportedly been destroyed in conflict-affected areas, mostly across the Northwest and the Southeast, although this data is difficult to verify.

In the Northeast, the security situation has deteriorated in northern Shan due to the escalating armed clashes between the MAF and an alliance of the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDAA), the Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA), and the Arakan Army (AA). Armed conflict and hostilities, including artillery shelling and airstrikes, are continuing in at least 9 out of 22 townships in northern Shan. The clashes appear to have escalated following a coordinated armed attack on MAF and police checkpoints by the EAOs and others. Road closures, blockages and increased checkpoints enforced by both the MAF and EAOs are impacting transportation. Mobile phone and internet services are not available or are very limited in Kokang SAZ, Hseni, Kutkai, Muse, and Namhkan townships. Electricity has been interrupted in Kutkai and Lashio airport has been closed.

With ongoing armed conflict, insecurity and weak communications, humanitarian partners are facing difficulties in accessing affected areas to conduct detailed assessments, although local partners and CSOs are able to obtain basic information. As of 86 November, several casualties had been reported and nearly 50,000 people had been forced into displacement in forested areas or religious compounds. Host communities, as well as local and national organizations, have provided immediate assistance to affected civilians including cash, food, and essential relief items wherever possible. However, there remain significant gaps due to active conflict, access constraints and underfunding. A one-million-dollar Reserve Allocation by the Myanmar Humanitarian Fund is being launched to support immediate assistance.

Armed conflict has also escalated in Kachin, resulting in displacement and heavy civilian casualties, including among IDPs. Of particular concern is the bombing that affected Woi Chyai IDP camp in Waingmaw township, near Laiza town on 9 October. According to partners, at least 29 people, including IDPs, were killed and many others injured. In addition, some 165 displaced families (855 IDPs) were affected and have sought shelter at empty warehouses in the IDP camp while others moved to stay with relatives. On 10 October, the Spokesperson for the Secretary-General issued a [statement](#) noting that "The Secretary-General condemns all forms of violence, including the military's intensifying attacks throughout the country, which continue to fuel regional instability." The statement added that "the Secretary-General reaffirms that civilians should be protected in accordance with international humanitarian law." Humanitarian partners have provided immediate assistance, including food, cash for food, emergency shelter and other essential relief items to the displaced and affected people. Financial support was also provided to the injured and their families and other services, including protection support, were also provided. At present, efforts are underway to identify a new, safe site for these displaced families. Fighting has also continued in other parts of Kachin since early October, forcing more than 600 people into displacement in Hpakant (~160 IDPs) and Momauk (~500 IDPs). As of 23 October, more than 14,000 people remain displaced in southern Kachin and further displacement is anticipated as fighting continues.

In the Northwest and central Myanmar, about 6,800 people have been displaced in Mawlaik, Ye-U and Yinmarbin townships in Sagaing since 10 October. In addition, more than 3,500 IDPs in Kale township remain unable to return home due to ongoing clashes since 26 September. Conflict and military operations also caused further civilian casualties and destruction of civilian properties. In Sagaing, 18 children in a monastic school were reportedly injured by artillery fire in Wuntho township on 27 September and some 900 houses in several townships were reportedly burnt down or destroyed in October. Internet services have been cut in Hakha and Tedim townships in Chin since 10 October and roads between Sagaing and Magway have been blocked since mid-October.

In the Southeast, more than 10,000 people have been displaced for a second time in Hpruso township in Kayah since early October and major roads between Bawlake and Hpruso townships have been blocked since late September. In southern Shan, about 1,500 people were newly displaced in Pekon township in October. In addition, conflict-related hostilities caused further civilian casualties and the destruction of at least 37 homes and 20 vehicles in eastern Bago, Kayin, Mon and Tanintharyi since September.

Despite the unstable security situation and access challenges, humanitarian partners continue to deliver critical and lifesaving assistance to affected communities, including displaced people, via a range of modalities to address immediate needs and alleviate suffering.

Relief flows to people affected by Monsoon floods

The annual Monsoon brought torrential rains and triggered unprecedented floods in Bago, Kayah, and southern Shan between 8 and 11 October. The deluge caused the overflow of the Bago River and Zaungtu Dam, resulting in extensive

damage to infrastructure and agriculture. More than 23,000 people were temporarily displaced in Bago. Additionally, the floods submerged several villages along the Bago River, displacing around 2,000 people to urban areas in Loikaw township, as well as the western part of Demoso township in Kayah and Pekon township in southern Shan. Landslides and the release of water from Moebye Dam in Pekon township exacerbated the situation in Kayah and southern Shan. In northern Shan, heavy rainfall on 12 October caused landslides and flooding in Namtu township, damaging more than 500 acres of farmlands and 27 houses; one fatality and two injuries were also reported. In Sagaing, several displacement sites in Ye-U township were flooded due to heavy rain between 12 and 13 October.

The impact of these floods on agriculture has been severe, especially in the Southeast. According to partners, around 100,000 acres of paddy were damaged in Bago, with townships including Bago, Daik-U, Htantatbin, Gyobingauk, and Zigon being the hardest hit. Both ready-to-be-harvested and already-harvested paddy crops were damaged. The floodwaters also wreaked havoc on maize and sesame fields, severely disrupting the livelihoods of farmers.

In response to flooding in the Southeast, local and international humanitarian organizations initiated immediate relief efforts to address the emerging needs in the affected areas. In Bago, 45 temporary relief sites were established to aid flood-affected communities in 9 villages in Bago township. These sites accommodated 5,920 households affected by the flood. Other responses included the distribution of fortified biscuits and rice to more than 26,000 affected people in the relief sites; provision of essential health kits and water purification tablets to 18,000 affected people; and distribution of vital supplies like disinfectant, hygiene kits, and emergency messaging posters. In Kayah and southern Shan, affected people were provided with temporary shelter until they returned to their homes once the water had receded. Multi-purpose cash assistance will be provided to 100 of the affected households. Additional responses, including child protection and gender-based violence services, are being prepared by several partners. Protection partners will also be conducting further assessments of needs to inform additional responses.



Distribution of emergency aid to flood-affected people in one of the relief sites in Bago, October 2023. Credit: Partner

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

Humanitarian Access: The humanitarian community continues to face access constraints across Myanmar, mainly due to ongoing military operations; administrative restrictions, including refusal of Travel Authorizations (TAs) and issues around NGO registration; and physical constraints caused by the Monsoon. Ongoing armed clashes between the MAF, and EAOs and Peoples Defence Forces (PDFs), reported in ten states/regions including Kachin, Kayah, Kaying, Mon, northern Shan, and Sagaing, have resulted in significant delays in scheduled humanitarian activities including the provision of basic food and health services to people in need.

Due to the armed clashes, humanitarian organizations faced increased travel restrictions in Kayah and Mon, delaying the movement of critical commodities, including nutrition support that was headed for rural areas. Active military campaigns led one implementing partner in Magway to relocate its office, and another organization to temporarily suspended its cash assistance programme for vulnerable people in these two states. In two different incidents reported in Kachin and southern Shan, two aid workers including a medical physician were reportedly detained by MAF with no reasons given to their organizations; one staff member was subsequently released after ten days; however, the medical doctor remained in custody as of end of September. A spike in detentions of humanitarian personnel by EAOs/PDFs has also been recorded in 2023, compared to the previous year. In October, multiple aid workers transporting food supplies in trucks were reportedly detained by PDFs in Sagaing. Access constraints caused by administrative obstacles, largely recorded from Kachin, northern and southern Shan, Rakhine, and Sagaing, continue and are affecting humanitarian movements, resulting in delays and postponement of planned activities. In Rakhine, the SAC has granted access to implementing partners on a case-by-case basis, taking into consideration agencies' engagement in the MoU/registration process at Nay Pyi Taw level; however, access to many locations, particularly in rural areas, continued to be restricted in the state. In Kayin, in addition to state-level approval, partners were instructed to secure permission from targeted village/ward/township administrators before planning any deliveries in select townships; as a result, extended delays in assistance were reported. In southern Shan, private transporters carrying water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) materials for humanitarian organizations were not allowed to pass MAF checkpoints, impeding scheduled programmes. Several humanitarian activities were interrupted due to landmine explosions reported close to project sites in Mon and Sagaing while lack of mobile networks and flooding interrupted aid work in several townships across Chin, Kayah, and southern Shan.

Needs, Response, Gaps and Challenges by Cluster

The information below is provided by each of the seven operating clusters and their sub-working groups/areas of responsibility 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, the following needs were identified in September:
 - In Ponnagyun township, 53 primary, middle and high school students from MAF-Arakan Army (AA) displacement sites face transportation challenges due to the high cost of Tuk-Tuks to commute to schools.
 - In Sittwe township, there is an urgent need for classroom furniture, teaching aids, textbooks, school uniforms, bags, and umbrellas for schools affected by Cyclone Mocha in Koe Saung 2 Rohingya village. Some 180 students are attending this school.
 - In Sittwe and Pauktaw townships, there is a need for government textbooks for 1,980 Rohingya IDP students (935 boys and 865 girls).
- In the Northwest, teaching materials, incentive payments, and capacity-building training are needed for 131 volunteer teachers (48 men and 83 women) from Falam, Kanpetlet, Matupi, Paletwa and Thantlang townships in Chin and Gangaw, Pakokku, Seikphyu and Yesagyo townships in Magway. Additionally, learning materials are required to support 886 students (448 boys and 438 girls) in Pakokku, Seikphyu and Yesagyo townships in Magway.
- In Kachin, there is a pressing need for electricity to allow nighttime studies in Waingmaw township. In addition, funding is required for fuel to operate generators in boarding schools in the same township.

Response

- In Rakhine, the following responses were undertaken in September:
 - In Sittwe and Pauktaw townships, 76 Rakhine community students (44 boys and 32 girls), including 54 children with disabilities (32 boys and 22 girls), received support through an Open Learning program.
 - In Sittwe and Pauktaw townships, 49 temporary learning centers (TLCs) and non-formal education centers (NFEs) in Rohingya IDP camps were reconstructed, and 3 TLCs have been rehabilitated.
 - Education partners provided monthly incentives to 584 Rohingya volunteer teachers (398 men, 186 women) and to 154 Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) caregivers (93 men and 61 women) in Rohingya IDP camps in Sittwe and Pauktaw townships.
 - Some 1,830 students (955 boy and 875 girl) in Sittwe IDP camps and 44 students (19 boys and 25 girls) in Maungdaw township received individual student kits.

- One cluster partner provided cash assistance to purchase learning materials and cover transportation cost to 103 Rohingya IDP students (74 boys and 29 girls), who transitioned from TLCs to government schools in Sittwe IDP camps.
- In the Northwest, the following responses were undertaken in September:
 - Some 1,312 students (612 boys and 709 girls) received support through a Non-Formal Education Program and 5,684 students (2,866 boys and 2,818 girls) joined Open Learning program activities in Chaung-U, Monywa, and Myaung townships in Sagaing.
 - An Extended and Continuous Education and Learning (EXCEL) program was rolled out to 4 volunteer teachers (1 man and 3 women) and an EXCEL Multiple training session to 63 participants (18 men and 45 women) in Chaung-U, Monywa and Myaung townships in Sagaing.
 - Learning and teaching materials were distributed to 6,688 primary students (3,358 boys and 3,330 girls) and 100 volunteer teachers (40 men and 60 women) respectively in Myinmu and Myaung townships in Sagaing.
- In the Northeast, education partners distributed Essential Learning Package (ELP) kits, recreation kits, and student kits to 56 students (28 boys and 28 girls) at Lashio Ward 2 Catholic Church in Lashio township.

Gaps & Constraints

- More than 30 per cent of school-age children are not enrolled in any form of learning, while half of the population has had their learning heavily disrupted for the past three years due to conflict, displacement, economic hardships, and natural disasters.
- In northern Shan, humanitarian access remains a complex issue due to the deteriorating security situation and bureaucratic obstacles, notably in Konkyan, Muse and Nawngkhio townships. Despite these challenges, humanitarian partners have maintained consistent assistance to IDP camps and vulnerable communities in northern Shan, using a range of approaches.

Food Security

Needs

- In September, about 111,700 people are in urgent need of food assistance in Chin and Magway as planned food distributions are pending approvals.
- In Magway, according to a rapid assessment, there is a need for meals for more than 1,000 students in 17 monastic schools in Chauk, Natmauk, and Yenangyaung townships.
- More than 5,000 people in Kamma township in Magway (3,200) and Tamu township in Sagaing (3,000) urgently need food and other essential items. These IDPs have been displaced to safer areas since mid-September due to airstrikes in Kamma township.
- About 2,000 people displaced due to clashes in Ye-U township in Sagaing are in need of food assistance and other essential items.
- In Bago, there is a need to rehabilitate agricultural infrastructure, including irrigation systems, that were damaged by the flood. In addition, there is a need to provide seeds, seedlings, fertilizers, and diesel to affected farmers to help them restart their agricultural activities.

Response

- In Kachin and the Southeast, partners distributed food and cash assistance to approximately 547,500 people in September. This includes in-kind assistance to about 31,000 out of 40,000 people targeted as a result of Cyclone Mocha impacts, and food assistance to about 3,600 IDPs in Kamarmaung town in Hpapun township in Kayin and to 6,800 IDPs in southern Shan. About 70 per cent of the assistance provided was through cash-based transfers (CBT).
- In Bago, more than 26,000 people affected by the flood in early October received fortified biscuits and rice.
- In Rakhine, the distribution of cash assistance to 320,000 people across 5 of the townships most affected by Cyclone Mocha began in mid-October.
- In the Northwest, the following responses were undertaken in September:
 - In Chin, partners distributed cash assistance to 154,200 IDPs and vulnerable host communities.
 - In Magway, partners distributed food assistance and other essential items to 1,557 households and 500 people with HIV/tuberculosis (TB) in Pakokku township, and to 328 households in Seikphyu township. In addition, cash assistance was provided to 800 households, mainly women and the elderly, in Gangaw, Myaing, Pauk, Pakokku, and Saw townships.
 - In Sagaing, food security partners provided food assistance to 500 IDPs households (2500 persons) in Sagaing township. In addition, more than 2,200 students from 25 schools in Lahe (1,614) and Lay Shi (669) townships received meals under the school feeding program.

Gaps & Constraints

- Distributions of food assistance were delayed for approximately 22,150 people in Chin and Magway due to pending approvals.
- Ongoing active fighting continues to pose a significant challenge to transporting food assistance, primarily due to movement restrictions imposed by local authorities, hindering timely and efficient aid delivery.
- Monsoon floods have disrupted local food supply chains, causing food shortages and price hikes in some areas, impacting farmers and consumers alike. Additionally, floodwaters erode topsoil, depleting its fertility, leading to reduced long-term agricultural productivity.

Health

Needs

- In the Northeast, the following needs were identified in September:
 - In Kachin, essential medicines and medical supplies are critically needed for IDPs in hard-to-reach areas across several townships.
 - Funding is critically needed for health partners to continue implementing lifesaving primary health services in Kachin and for nutrition and lifesaving care for pregnant women with anaemia in mountainous areas in northern Shan.
- In the Northwest, the following needs were identified in September:
 - There is a high demand for vaccination services in townships across Chin.
 - There is a need for primary health services for more than 2,000 newly displaced people and for lifesaving health services to treat malaria, and TB cases in two townships in Sagaing.
- In the Southeast, the following needs were identified in September:
 - Long-term family planning devices, such as Intra Uterine Devices (IUD) and implants, are needed in areas of Kayin due to increasing numbers of IDPs and restrictions in the transportation of medicines and medical supplies.
 - Some 1,000 IDPs in Kayah need healthcare services for influenza-like syndrome.
 - Lifesaving health services are needed in hard-to-reach areas in Kayah and southern Shan.

Response

- In the Northeast, the following responses were undertaken in September.
 - Some 4,738 health consultations were provided in townships across Kachin and an Early Warning, Alert and Response System (EWARS) orientation session was conducted for health partners to strengthen disease surveillance.
 - Portable ultrasound equipment, solar, and battery sets were provided to two partners for improving early diagnosis and prompt referral in emergency care, including emergency obstetrical care, in Kachin. In addition, partners are coordinating the distribution of 2,000 Clean Delivery Kits to pregnant women in several affected townships.
 - Nearly 9,100 health consultations were provided through 10 mobile clinic and teleconsultations in 9 townships in northern Shan.
 - Three pregnant women received Emergency Obstetric Care (EMOC), and 19 children received Early Childhood Care (ECC) support in one township in northern Shan.
 - Partners conducted 17 health education and awareness-raising sessions on HIV, TB, sexual and reproductive health and GBV to more than 3,100 people in 4 townships in northern Shan.
- In Magway, health partners conducted 434 health teleconsultations in crisis-affected areas in September.
- In Rakhine, the following responses were undertaken in September:
 - Some 22,689 health consultations were provided by 11 health partners in 10 townships.
 - Ninety per cent of planned distributions of long-lasting insecticide bed nets (LLIN) has been completed in the northern and southern townships of Rakhine.
- In the Southeast, the following responses were undertaken in September:
 - In Kayin, 850 health consultations were provided through 24 mobile clinics in 2 townships. In addition, 130 pregnant women received EMOC referral support in 3 townships, and 132 children received ECC referral support in 2 townships.
 - In Kayah, financial support was provided for emergency referrals for 22 women requiring emergency obstetric services, 39 children requiring urgent clinical care, and 8 other urgent medical and surgery clinical care cases.

Gaps & Constraints

- Due to the lack of funding, partners are being forced to reduce their presence and the volume of their activities in affected areas in Kachin, as well as lifesaving EMOC and ECC responses in northern Shan.

- Ongoing conflict and administrative constraints associated with MoUs and Travel Authorizations are also severely impacting access to crisis-affected areas to provide healthcare services and transportation of medicines and medical supplies, particularly in Chin, Kachin, northern Shan, Sagaing and across the Southeast.

Nutrition

Needs

- A total of \$5.8 million is still needed for ready-to-use therapeutic food (RUTF) and micronutrients, to prevent an anticipated shortage in supplies by the end of 2023. If financial support is not urgently received, there is an increased risk of children falling ill or dying from malnutrition in Myanmar among the nearly 40,000 children projected to be affected by severe acute malnutrition (SAM).
- Nationwide, there has been a steady rise in nutritional disorders, especially in Kachin, Rakhine and Shan. The demand for nutrition supplements, including micronutrients, has significantly increased. However, this demand remains unmet in these areas due to delays in transportation.
- In the Northwest, there is still a need for about 100 cartons of RUTF for proper treatment of children with SAM and 100 cartoons for proper management of children with moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) in Chin, Magway and Sagaing.
- In the Northeast, 10 cartons of RUTF for 11 children with SAM, 24 bottles of micronutrient tablets (MNT) for 389 pregnant and lactating women (PLW), and 2,204 boxes of micronutrient powder (MNP) for 1,104 children under 5 are needed in Momauk township in Kachin and Mongmit township in northern Shan for preventative and therapeutic treatment.
- In Rakhine, salter scales and high boards are needed for accurate measurement of weight and height for infants and children under 2-years-old by implementing partners in Kyauktaw, Mrauk-U and Myebon townships.
- In Rakhine, about \$20,000 in funding is needed to construct 2 breastfeeding spaces (BFS) at IDP camps in Sittwe for nutrition awareness sessions with mothers, one-to-one nutrition counselling, and distribution of nutritional supplementary foods (Wheat Soya Blend (WSB) and WSB+).

Response

- In Rakhine, the following responses were undertaken in September:
 - Some 349 cartons of RUTF were delivered to Buthidaung, Kyauktaw, Mrauk-U and Pauktaw townships to treat 684 children with SAM.
 - One Nutrition Cluster partner provided Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition (IMAM) and Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) refresher training for 49 community-based health workers in Sittwe township.
 - One partner delivered Early Childhood Stimulation Therapy (ECST) training to 31 aid workers in Sittwe township.
 - Five Integrated Nutrition Centres (INC) in IDP camps that were destroyed during Cyclone Mocha were renovated and other INCs are being reconstructed in Sittwe township.
- In the Northwest, the following responses were undertaken in September:
 - In coordination with the regional health department, one partner provided 3 bottles of Vitamin A, 2 cartons of MNP, and 180 bottles of MNT to children under 5 and PLWs in Magway.
 - One partner will implement a nutrition program in Pakokku, Pauk, and Myaing townships in Magway.

Gaps & Constraints

- Nationwide, challenges persist in nutrition programs, including supply transportation hurdles, uncertainty around available healthcare services for patients who are referred, travel restrictions affecting IDPs and reducing their access to services, and funding gaps within the referral system.
- The shortage of essential nutrition supplements, including crucial micronutrients, across all states and regions poses an immediate threat. Without swift intervention, children could succumb to illness or die.
- Health care settings that provide nutrition services are still very limited due to a lack of resources and this is creating challenges in providing management of malnutrition in affected areas in Chin, Kachin, Kayin, Magway, Sagaing, and Shan.

Protection

Needs

- In the Southeast and Northwest, the following concerns and needs were identified in multiple states and regions in September:

- Indiscriminate shelling, airstrikes and landmines continue to claim lives and threaten the safety and security of civilians.
- Arbitrary arrests and detention, and destruction of civilian properties, including health and education facilities, remain major protection concerns.
- Access to public services (civil documentation and healthcare) in the Southeast is becoming challenging for security reasons and because of damage to public infrastructure. Mobile networks and internet access have been restricted in Kayah, except Loikaw town.
- In Rakhine, the following concerns and needs were identified in September:
 - There is an increase in trafficking and irregular movement of vulnerable people from both northern and central Rakhine to neighbouring countries in pursuit of livelihood opportunities and to escape from years of political, economic and social oppression which have been further exacerbated by Cyclone Mocha.
 - Flooding and landslides due to heavy rains in Kyauktaw, Minbya and Mrauk-U townships have destroyed homes, properties and farmland, impacting on livelihoods, as well as the economic and food security of the affected families.
 - The SAC continues to push for the premature return of IDPs from the MAF-AA displacement sites, particularly in Kyauktaw, Mrauk-U and Myebon townships. This is happening despite the conditions in people's places of origin not being considered safe or conducive for return.
 - Rohingya and Kaman people continue to face discrimination and exorbitant charges as they try to apply for citizenship documentation.
- Child protection (CP) concerns continue to be reported across the country. Unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) continue to be a major concern. Abduction cases continue to be reported. Grave violations have been reported across Myanmar with notable increase in the Southeast and Northwest, including recruitment to armed groups. Early marriage continues to be reported as a coping strategy for caregivers, requiring increased awareness raising, case management and adolescent programming.

Response

- In the Southeast, the following responses were undertaken in September:
 - In Kayah, Kayin, and southern Shan, partners conducted 119 protection monitoring missions and provided cash assistance to 57 persons with specific needs.
 - In Bago and Tanintharyi, partners provided legal consultations to 12 people; provided targeted and specialized support to 127 persons with specific protection needs/risks; conducted legal and civilian documentation training sessions for 101 people, and protection risk awareness sessions for 748 people.
 - Across the Southeast, the Protection Cluster provided capacity building sessions on the prevention of people trafficking in conflict and humanitarian settings for 40 cluster members.
 - The cluster conducted explosive ordnance risk education (EORE) awareness sessions for about 2,800 participants, including IDPs.
- Case management remains a critical response to children with protection concerns. Efforts to reinforce the capacity of case workers and referral mechanisms have been a priority at national and sub-national level. A community level child protection (CLCP) workshop was convened with more than 60 participants, with the aim to support the CLCP working group to develop key actions. The localization agenda continues to be a priority through actions of the CP Area of Responsibility (AoR) Localization Working Group.
- In response to monsoon flooding, a joint protection assessment is underway. Furthermore, messaging on child protection flood information, MHPSS guidelines, anti-trafficking and Accountability to Affected Population (AAP) dos and don'ts were disseminated in the Southeast. Capacity building on trafficking, caring for child survivors of sexual abuse and AAP was also undertaken.
- CP partners in eastern Bago, Kayin and Mon provided legal aid services for 10 children; handled 12 case management services; provided food and NFIs to 400 displaced children; supported in birth registration for more than 100 children; provided mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) to about 700 children; conducted EORE awareness sessions for 450 children; disseminated gender-based violence (GBV) risk mitigation and prevention messages to 458 children and communities; conducted capacity building to 50 CP and GBV partners and groups and 7 legal awareness training sessions to CP volunteers.
- In Kayah, CP partners completed referral pathways and distributed 150 dignity kits in Loikaw.

Gaps & Constraints

- In the Southeast, provision of essential assistance and protection services remains challenging due to increasing movement restrictions, including checkpoints and extensive roadblocks, amid ongoing conflict and monsoon flooding. Specifically:

- In Kayin, an arson attack on the public service department made it more challenging for the people to access civil documentation.
- In Kayin and Mon, cash distributions were not completed due to the unstable security situation.
- In Tanintharyi, heavily searches of ambulances at checkpoints is hindering effective delivery of emergency healthcare and heightens the risk of arrests for social workers.
- In the Northwest, due to limited access, as well as limited resources and capacity, there has been a gap in delivery of essential items and protection services to IDPs.
- In Rakhine, there are increasing gaps in community-based programming aimed at promoting social cohesion and strengthening community resilience, and for increased sensitization of affected people to the risks of irregular migration. Increased advocacy with the SAC is also needed to de-link both freedom of movement and access to social protection programs from citizenship documentation, while streamlining of citizenship documentation processes is needed across townships.

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

Needs

- In Kachin, the following needs were identified in September:
 - More than 13,000 IDPs in Bhamo, Momauk and Shwegu townships require shelter and other assistance, including kitchen sets, solar lamps and firewood; however, humanitarian access to these townships remain a challenge.
 - Three IDP camps in Mohnyin township need winter clothes and blankets, while one IDP camp in Bhamo township needs shelter support.
 - In Waingmaw township, some 19 relocated families, who are originally from Nam Sang Yang village, need regular humanitarian support as they have been unable to return home since July 2023.
- In the Northwest, cluster partners identified the following needs in September:
 - In Sagaing, some 156 houses were destroyed in Katha township and almost 400 affected people urgently need shelter and other essential items.
 - More than 6,200 IDPs in Tamu township in Sagaing and Pakokku township in Magway urgently need shelter and other essential relief items.
 - In Chin, more than 180 displaced families from several villages in Thantlang township have been hiding in the forest and need humanitarian assistance, including shelter.
- In the Southeast, urgent humanitarian needs persist, particularly for shelter, shelter materials and NFIs. Immediate shelter assistance is critical in many states and regions, as IDPs are enduring inadequate shelter conditions, compromising the privacy, dignity and safety, particularly for women and girls.
- In Rakhine, shelter and NFI assistance is needed for more than 15,000 IDPs affected by the AA-MAF conflict. In addition, more than 1,300 longhouses in Rohingya camps need reconstruction, with more than 57,000 Rohingya people living in compromised shelters in camps following Cyclone Mocha.

Response

- Countrywide, cluster partners provided shelter and NFI assistance to more than 7,200 displaced or affected families in September as below:
 - In the Northeast, more than 120 IDPs in Sumprabum township in Kachin received emergency NFI assistance.
 - In the Northwest, 580 families received shelter kits and 170 families received cash for shelter in Kanpetlet, Matupi, Mindat and Thantlang townships in Chin; 300 families received shelter kits in Tamu township in Sagaing; and 785 families received shelter materials, sleeping mats, mosquito nets and cooking utensils in Gangaw, Saw and Tilin townships in Magway.
 - In the Southeast, 2,850 displaced families received NFI kits in eastern Bago, Kayah, Kayin and Mon.
 - In Rakhine, cluster partners completed construction of 30 longhouses in Sittwe township, providing safe shelters for more than 1,300 IDPs. In addition, more than 450 Rakhine families and some 880 Rohingya families received shelter and NFI assistance.

Gaps & Constraints

- In the Northwest, artillery shelling and aerial bombardment, as well as flooding and landslides caused gaps in distribution of humanitarian assistance to the people in need.
- In the Southeast, access restrictions and transportation barriers due to flooding and landslides, as well as ongoing armed clashes and increased checkpoints are continuing in multiple states and regions. Mine risks and indiscriminate shooting remain a high concern in targeted villages. Road closures, tightened checkpoints, and transportation difficulties hindered the delivery of essential shelter supplies. These challenges posed a

threat to the well-being of IDPs in these areas. In eastern Bago, churches and monasteries that accommodate IDPs had limited capacity to host the increasing number of IDPs.

- In Rakhine, shelter assistance remains a primary concern in both Rakhine and Rohingya displacement sites and camps. Transport of materials from Yangon to Rakhine has been heavily affected by access restrictions, and NFI contingency stocks remain low throughout the state as they were largely exhausted during the immediate responses following Cyclone Mocha.
- In Kachin, the process of obtaining travel authorizations from the SAC is a challenge for partners and access to southern townships, especially in Shwegu, remains challenging.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Needs

- In Rakhine, there is a critical need to improve WASH services as 39 per cent of the 177 AA-MAF displacement sites still lack sufficient access to clean water, 63 per cent do not have appropriate sanitation facilities, and 64 per cent are still experiencing hygiene deficiencies.
- In Kachin, there is a significant need and shortfall in the delivery of WASH services in both temporary and protracted IDP camps across the state; partners report that 78,270 IDPs required WASH assistance in Kachin.
- In northern Shan, more than 3,700 IDPs in Kyaukme and Namtu townships need essential WASH support, following their relocation from IDP camps that were prematurely closed in early 2023.
- In the Southeast, 280 families (~1,100 people) in Hlaingbwe township in Kayin were affected by flooding in September and are in need of WASH assistance.

Response

- In Rakhine, WASH responses were undertaken in 133 Rakhine and Rohingya IDP camps/sites in 10 townships, benefitting more than 51,000 IDPs, in September. WASH partners organized 238 hygiene promotion sessions and provided critical WASH supplies. These include 6,650 water purification sachets, 4,843 hygiene kits, sanitary pads for about 1,400 women and girls, soap for 920 families, 409 jerrycans and water buckets, and 150 water filters.
- In the Northwest, the following WASH responses were undertaken in September:
 - In Sagaing, a partner provided water containers, water purification tablets and hygiene kits for more than 9,700 IDPs in Kale township. The partner also installed water filters and tanks in the displacement sites and conducted 13 hygiene education sessions for IDPs.
 - Another partner renovated wells and upgraded water pipelines in 6 locations in Tabayin, Taze and Ye-U townships in Sagaing, benefitting about 3,900 conflict-affected people. The partner also constructed 180 latrines and 3 bathing spaces and conducted 41 hygiene promotion sessions.
 - In Chin, a partner provided 3,482 hygiene kits for affected and displaced people in Hakha, Matupi and Thantlang townships.
- In the Southeast, cluster partners provided the following WASH responses in September:
 - A partner provided more than 3,600 displaced families in Kayah and Kayin, with water containers, jerrycans, and drinking water, as well as installation of water distribution points and water purification units in displacement sites and camps.
 - In Kayin, two partners are working with members of 30 communities and 31 villages in Hlaingbwe township to provide regular WASH assistance.
 - In Tanintharyi, a partner provided hygiene items to 2,000 affected and displaced people in Palaw township. In addition, a distribution of hygiene kits is ongoing to 500 families in Palaw and Tanintharyi townships.
- In Shan, the following WASH responses were undertaken in September:
 - In northern Shan, cluster partners distributed hygiene items to 317 families (~1,000 IDPs) in 7 displacement sites in Muse and Namhkan townships.
 - In southern Shan, partners provided hygiene kits and water containers to 507 families (~1,700 IDPs) in 24 camps in Nyaungshwe township.

Gaps & Constraints

- In Rakhine, lengthy approval processes have delayed for distribution of WASH items, renovation and construction of WASH facilities, and provision of WASH services for people in need. These delays have hampered the ability of humanitarian partners to provide an effective WASH response in some of the affected sites, leaving a significant gap in addressing the basic needs of the IDPs.
- In Kachin, access restrictions and denial of travel authorization into Shwegu township continue to hinder cluster partners.

- In the Northwest, restrictions on accessing target locations, especially in Sagaing, have impacted partners' activities, including the distribution of WASH supplies, construction/renovation of WASH facilities, and program monitoring and evaluation.
- In Chin, water sources in Thantlang township were contaminated during heavy rains.

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