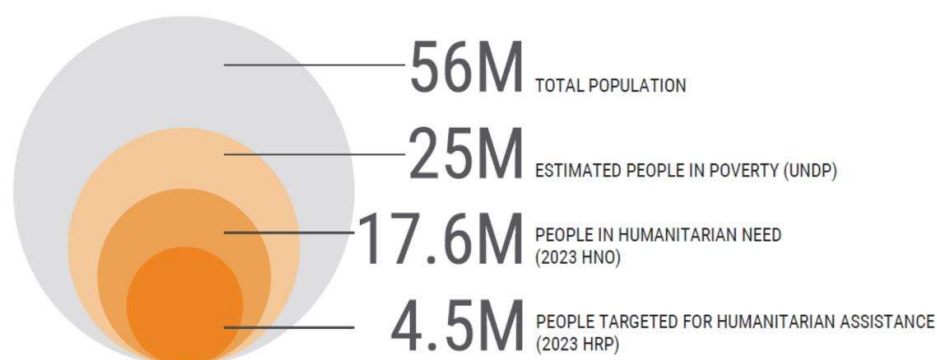


Flygtningenævnets baggrundsmateriale

Bilagsnr.:	500
Land:	Myanmar
Kilde:	OCHA Myanmar
Titel:	Humanitarian Update No. 26
Udgivet:	2. februar 2023
Optaget på baggrundsmaterialet:	21. juni 2023

United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
www.unocha.org



The [2023 Humanitarian Needs Overview \(HNO\)](#) estimates that 17.6 million - almost one in three Myanmar people - are now in humanitarian need. Increasing numbers of people are now facing daily protection threats and are living in fear amid the violence sweeping the country. In 2023, protection risks including killing and injury due to heavy fighting and landmines and explosive remnants of war (ERW),

arrest and detention, forced recruitment, and human trafficking among others, continue to prevail, especially in hard-to-reach conflict areas. As of 23 January, 1.2 million people remain displaced by conflict and insecurity since the military takeover in February 2021, bringing the total number of internally displaced people (IDPs) across Myanmar to more than 1.5 million. With surging displacement, the resources of host communities and those on the move are being rapidly depleted. Nutritious food is becoming increasingly scarce and more unaffordable due to inflation. Parents are worrying about their children's future prospects after years of missed schooling, while the sick are continuing to miss out on medicines and life-saving treatment because of health service interruptions. Stateless Rohingya people continue to face restrictions on their movement that have left them almost completely dependent on assistance for survival.

The grim situation outlined in the HNO makes a scaled-up, context-adapted, and people-centered humanitarian response essential in 2023 to prevent loss of life and reduce suffering. The [2023 Myanmar Humanitarian Response Plan \(HRP\)](#) requests US\$764 million to reach 4.5 million people most in need of life-saving humanitarian support, predominantly in conflict-affected rural areas. The Plan is heavily prioritized and makes a compelling case for a more robust donor contribution to the response that will be delivered through a new fit-for-purpose coordination architecture and an enhanced localization strategy. The 2023 plan focuses on hard-to-reach rural areas and those with the most severe needs while being realistic about potential reach given access and capacity constraints. The Plan outlines the dire need for improved humanitarian access to conflict-affected areas and the removal of bureaucratic obstacles to the delivery of assistance. Heading into 2023, humanitarian organizations are facing an increasingly constrained operational environment. Bureaucratic and physical impediments to access are hampering the ability of humanitarian partners to provide protection and assistance. Humanitarians are closely monitoring the impacts of new NGO registration requirements introduced by the de facto authorities amid fears they will limit the ability of many organizations to deliver assistance and result in escalating unmet needs. The humanitarian community has proposed a six-month moratorium on implementation of the requirements to allow time to ensure services are not interrupted.

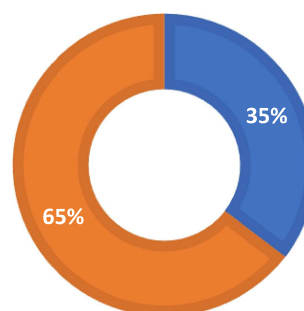
Consequences of underfunding for affected people

Humanitarians were able to reach a record of more than 3.9 million people with assistance in 2022, however this work was severely hampered not just by severe access constraints but also drastic underfunding. Despite soaring needs, the response received just 35 per cent of the \$826m in funding requested from donors in 2022. A global comparison of HRPs shows that Myanmar had one of the largest proportional funding gaps of any country in 2022 (65 per cent). This shortfall meant that the assistance provided was not sustained or as multi-sectoral as planned and did not reach as many people in conflict areas as hoped with the required depth of support. During the second half of the year, operational partners were forced to make tough decisions on how, where, and who to prioritize.

The funding gaps resulting in many humanitarian needs being unmet, worsening the already precarious living conditions for millions affected and displaced people across Myanmar. For instance, by the end of December 2022, there was no available funding to cover water pumping, desludging and other vital wash and sanitation

REQUIREMENT VS FUNDING RECEIVED ACROSS THE RESPONSE

■ Funded (US\$) ■ Unmet requirements (US\$)



services in 21 IDP camps in Kachin (see case study) or in protracted IDP camps in Rakhine. Grants provided by some donors to WASH interventions expired in November, and efforts to obtain additional support for the protracted IDP camps were not successful. Using unsafe water sources, lack of hygiene supplies and use of unimproved sanitation facilities increases the risk of acute watery diarrhoea (AWD), a major underlying factor in children suffering from severe acute malnutrition (SAM). Without renewed and increased support from donors and humanitarian organizations in 2023, outbreaks of preventable, communicable, and waterborne diseases are likely, especially in congested camps.

The humanitarian community is committed to staying and delivering in 2023 and will continue with its advocacy efforts with all parties to obtain a safe and predictable access to people in need. However, this work is dependent on the receipt of increased funding for humanitarian activities. The total HRP 2023 financial requirement of \$764 million will need a decisive commitment from the donor community to be fully implemented, even with the tighter prioritization outlined. Without the required funds, humanitarian partners will have to prioritize lower-cost life-saving and critical activities that do not offer the required depth of relief or contribute to people's overall well-being, dignified living standards, or chance of finding durable solutions. The heavy prioritization already applied in the HRP planning will mean that more people in more severe categories of need will miss out on support if requirements are not met. This unmet need will have flow-on implications for subsequent years with needs worsening over time and requiring more expensive interventions in future years. In the current context, with prior coping capacities all but exhausted and food insecurity on the rise, that may mean people – especially the newly displaced – will face the real possibility of not being able to survive the crisis.

Impact of funding shortfalls on IDPs across Kachin

Kachin is home to more than 94,000 displaced people living in protracted camps in 13 townships. These include more than 7,000 people who were displaced since the 2021 military takeover and have been living in displacement sites, mainly in Hpakant, Mohnyin, Momauk, Bhamo and Waingmaw townships. Humanitarians require approximately more than \$29 million to provide sustained life-saving humanitarian assistance to these IDPs for the next six months.

In 2022, funding constraints limited the capacity of the operating clusters to deliver services to affected and displaced people, especially those living in the protracted IDP camps. More than 32,000 IDPs in 8 camps in Sumprabum, Shwegu, Waingmaw and Injanyang townships in areas outside SAC control will potentially face food shortage from February 2023 if additional funding is not provided. Additionally, some 57,000 IDPs living in 25 sites in Waingmaw, 3 sites in Tanai, 2 sites in Sumprabum, 20 sites in Momauk and 1 site in Injangyang are lacking Water, Sanitation and Hygiene facilities due to insufficient funding. This will lead to service interruptions if the funding shortfalls persist during the first quarter of 2023.

Based on a Shelter/NFI/CCCM analysis in Kachin in December 2022, more than 6,500 IDP households need new shelters or reconstruction/renovation of existing shelters, new kitchens, and communal halls, for which more than \$8 million is required. Additionally, at least 1,200 household planning to move out of camp to find transitional solution will need new housing construction materials that would cost more than \$4 million. To prevent camp conditions from further deteriorating, consistent funding is required to cover running costs in 127 displacement camps/sites in Kachin so that they can accommodate protracted and newly displaced people. Besides, more than 3,000 IDPs in eight camps/camp like settings need to relocate to new site as their previous land tenure has expired; these camps will require land identification, preparation and camp set up support that would cost at least \$1 million for shelter construction.

Combined, the Food Security and Shelter/NFI/CCCM clusters require \$21.5 million (\$8 million and \$13.5m, respectively) to cover the most urgent needs of more than 80,000 people, mainly IDPs living in areas outside SAC control, over the next 6 months.

Civilian casualties and displacement surge amid fighting during January

Across the Southeast, armed conflict between the MAF and various armed groups continued unabated in all states and regions, but particularly in Kayah where heavy fighting with aerial strikes and artillery fire were reported. In southern Shan, intense fighting was recorded in Moe Bye town in Pekon township since early January 2023. More than 566 households (2,200 people) from 9 villages near Moe Bye town were displaced to safer locations nearby on 11 January due to fighting between the MAF and joint forces of EAOs and PDFs. Some of them remain displaced and are currently hosted in religious buildings or with relatives. On 16 January, one woman was killed, and two others were injured reportedly by artillery fire at an IDP camp in Moe Bye town. In this incident, an unidentified number of IDPs in and around the camp in Moe Bye town were forced to relocate to other safer areas due to continuous random mortar

shelling. Sporadic fighting between the MAF and local PDFs was also reported in Hsiseng, Kalaw and Nyaungshwe townships in early January.

In Kayah, intermittent fighting and drone attacks were also reported in several townships, resulting in civilian casualties, displacement and food shortages. On 3 January, indiscriminate mortar fire towards a displacement site in the western part of Demoso township reportedly killed a displaced man and injured a displaced woman. On the same day, artillery fire injured two civilians in Daw Mu Ka Lar village in Loikaw township. The main roads between Loikaw - Daw Ta Mee - Bawlake have been blocked by the de facto authorities since early January 2023 and the main roads between Bawlake, Hpasawng, and Mawchee townships have been completely blocked for security reasons since early December 2022. As a result, locals from Bawlake, Hpasawng, and Mawchee townships are reported to be facing a shortage of food and basic goods. On 15 January, two civilians were reportedly killed and another seven injured during a PDF drone attack at an event held by de facto state authorities in Loikaw town. In response, the MAF launched indiscriminate artillery fire at several villages in the eastern part of Demoso township. This also resulted in the deaths of three members of one family in Demoso township.

In Kayin, the security situation remains tense, with ongoing fighting between the MAF and the joint forces of the Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA) and PDFs in several townships. In particular, fighting has been escalating in Kyainseikgyi township since the end of 2022 and the MAF has reportedly been raiding villages across the township since 19 January 2023. According to local partners, nearly 16,000 people from 20 villages were consequently displaced in Kyainseikgyi township. IDPs are currently staying in jungle close to the Thai-Myanmar border, and are in urgent need of food, medicine, and shelter assistance. On 7 January, six civilians were reportedly killed in a series of airstrikes in and around Taung Soon village in Kyainseikgyi township. On 12 January, five civilians, including a child, were reportedly killed and many others injured during armed clashes in Lay War village in Hpapun township. On 22 January, a public health clinic in Kayin Chaung village was destroyed and an unverified number of villagers fled to safer locations due to aerial bombardment in Kyainseikgyi township, which was reportedly targeting residences and offices of the Democratic Karen Benevolent Army (DKBA). Between 24 and 26 January, intense fighting erupted around several villages along the Gyaing River near Kyondoe town in Kawkareik township. This led to the displacement of about 5,000 people from 9 villages near Kyondoe town, an unverified number of civilian casualties, and the destruction of 8 houses.

In eastern and western Bago, sporadic fighting between the MAF and local PDFs were reported in the townships of Gyobingauk, Kyaukkyi, Paungde, Thegon and Zigon since early January 2023. On 13 January, three civilians were reportedly killed and another four were injured in Kyaukkyi township in a drone attack near a bridge on the Kyaukkyi-Nat Than Kwin Road. In Mon, armed clashes were reported in Kyaikhto and Thaton townships. Consequently, three civilians were reportedly killed and another six civilians, including children, were injured in two villages of Kyaikhto township on 6 and 7 January. In Tanintharyi, intermittent fighting and attacks have continued in several townships and about 2,000 people were consequently displaced within Palaw township on 20 January. However, 1,125 IDPs have returned to their villages of origin in Dawei township in the same period.

The overall number of IDPs across the Southeast has increased during the reporting period. As of 23 January 2023, the total number of people displaced by conflict and insecurity since the military takeover stands at 350,100. This includes 86,100 IDPs in Kayah; 92,800 IDPs in Kayin; 54,000 IDPs in southern Shan; 25,000 IDPs in Mon; 37,800 IDPs in Tanintharyi; and 54,400 IDPs in eastern Bago.

In Kachin, frequent armed clashes between the MAF and joint forces of the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) and PDFs have continued in several townships, particularly in Hpakant, Bhamo, and Mogaung. As a result, at least one civilian was reportedly killed and five others, including children, sustained injuries due to artillery fire in San Hkar village in Hpakant township on 30 December 2022. In addition, more than 370 people were temporarily displaced to urban areas within Bhamo township during the first half of January, and about 50 people from Nam Shen village in Mogaung township were displaced to safer locations.

In the Northwest, airstrikes, mortar fire, military raids, explosions, and landmine incidents have continued unabated, resulting in civilian casualties, and widespread destruction of houses. Consequently, 12,255 people were newly displaced in Sagaing and about 12,700 people were newly displaced in Magway in January, bringing the total number of IDPs across the Northwest since the 2021 military takeover to about 855,400, as of 23 January according to UN figures. In parallel, tightened security measures imposed by various parties on roads and waterways across these states and regions have restricted the movement of people and goods and impeded partners' access to people in need. Reports of increased attacks allegedly by PDFs against staff gathering voter lists for the potential election later in the year have been received in several locations including in Sagaing, Myaung, and Monywa townships. Travel authorizations for humanitarian partners to deliver assistance have been suspended since April 2022, severely impacting the volume of support being delivered and placing a heavy burden on local organizations with a presence in

these areas. Threats against aid workers have continued to hamper humanitarian operations, exposing personnel to various threats.

In northern Shan, armed clashes between the MAF and various ethnic armed organizations (EAOs) and PDFs were reported in Hseni, Kunlong, Laukkaing, Muse, Namhsan and Nawngkhio townships. However, there have been no reports of new displacement across northern Shan since the beginning of 2023. Some 66 displaced households (334 IDPs) who were living in Namhsan town since mid-December 2022, returned to their village of origin in Namhsan township on 7 and 8 January after humanitarian partners had provided them with temporary shelter materials. According to latest UN figures, as of 23 January, approximately 15,900 people remain displaced in temporary displacement sites and protracted camps in northern Shan. Another major protection concern in northern Shan is the ongoing incidence of forced recruitment. A total of 16 people were reportedly forcibly recruited by EAOs in three townships in January 2023, bringing the total number to 170 in 10 townships across northern Shan since the beginning of 2022, according to various sources.

In Rakhine, since the announcement of the ceasefire between the AA and the MAF in late November, the security situation has been relatively calm. Accordingly, IDPs from the recent fighting have started returning to their places of origin, reducing the total number of IDPs from the recent fighting to 12,500. Overall, the total number of IDPs from past and present AA-MAF conflict stands at around 86,000 in Rakhine and southern Chin, as of 23 January 2023. In addition, 144,000 Kaman and Rohingya IDPs remain in formal camps established after inter-communal violence 2012. They are part of a broader stateless community estimated to be around 600,000 Rohingya people.

HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

Humanitarian Access: In Rakhine, restrictions on humanitarian operations, imposed in September, have gradually been removed following the informal ceasefire between the AA and the MAF in November 2022. After significant delays, the de facto authorities have restarted issuing Travel Authorizations for humanitarian organisations to access Mrauk-U, Minbya, Myebon, Rathedaung, Buthidaung, and Maungdaw townships. However, access is still largely limited to urban areas in the townships with very few partners obtaining approval for missions to rural areas. Challenges caused by delays at checkpoints remain prevalent. Some partners have noted, however, that waiting times have reduced significantly, from 4 hours in past months, to an estimated 1.5 hours on average.

The access situation in other states and regions remains unchanged and substantially constrained. Throughout December 2022, movement restrictions and ongoing military operations negatively affected humanitarian activities in the Southeast, Northwest and Northeast. Due to staff safety and security risks from ongoing military operations and clashes, humanitarian organizations reported incidents where they were forced to withdraw staff and relocate humanitarian activities to safer areas of Kachin, Kayah and Sagaing. In Kayah, the de facto state authorities have restricted access to seven townships (Bawlake, Demoso, Hpruso, Hpasawang, Loikaw, Mese and Shadaw). In Shan, access to Pekon, Pindaya and Ywangan townships also remains restricted. An inter-agency distribution mission to deliver critical assistance to displaced and conflict-affected communities in four townships in southern Shan (Pinlaung, Loilen, Lawsaw and Hsiseng) was delayed for more than ten days pending approval from the de facto state authorities. The approval was eventually granted in January 2023 and the mission was successfully completed, reaching more than 5,500 IDPs with life-saving assistance. Some humanitarian organizations have also reported levies being imposed for passage through checkpoints operated by both the MAF and EAOs in Kachin and Chin. Furthermore, over the past month, six incidents of arrest and detention of humanitarian workers were reported in Kayah, Kayin and Sagaing.

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 the context of 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 Mon, 12 villages in Thandaungyi township urgently need learning materials for school children, according to a partner.
- In southern Kachin, newly displaced children in displacement sites in Momauk and Bhamo townships are now attending nearby schools within the same townships, but partners are concerned about their safety on the journey due to ongoing fighting. (Joint protection and intention assessment, 21-22 December 2022).

- There is still a need for professional development training and mental and psychosocial support for teachers working in IDP camps.
- Higher quality education support is still needed for displaced children and young people who are often denied access due to inadequate learning spaces, bureaucratic issues (e.g not possessing a transfer letter from their former school) or security challenges.
- In Rakhine, according to the Education Cluster reports, children in IDP camps in Kyaukpyu township do not have access to middle and high school to continue their education.

Response

- In Rakhine, the following education activities were undertaken in December 2022:
 - In Sittwe, cluster partners have provided quality education for students with disabilities. This involved the provision of teachers and inclusive student kits.
 - Partners provided non-formal education (NFE- Life-Skill Phase 1) training to 52 facilitators in Ponnagyun, Mrauk-U and Ann townships.
 - Partners distributed COVID-19 preventative materials, including face masks, anti-bacterial hand spray and hand wash in Ponnagyun, Mrauk-U and Ann townships.
- In the Southeast, the following responses were undertaken in December 2022:
 - In Kayin, partners provided more than 560 school kits to children and 16 teacher kits to kindergartens and elementary schools in Hlaingbwe and Kyainseikgyi townships.
 - In Tanintharyi, partners distributed 130 school kits in Mitta township and conducted Parents' Skill Program (PSP) and other trainings for children.
 - Partners distributed high energy biscuits to 14,879 students studying at public schools in Kyikehto, Belin Kyeikmayaw and Yay townships in Mon; Hlaing Bwe and Kawtkayein townships in Kayin; and in Yayphyu and Dawei townships in Tanintharyi.

Gaps & Constraints

- Intense fighting, airstrikes and artillery fire have limited access to communities, delaying education service delivery, and making program implementation more expensive and difficult to execute.
- Due to supply chain disruptions and inflation, the costs of fuel, transport, electricity, and other inputs have continued to increase, negatively undermining the implementation of education services.

Food Security

Needs

- A series of assessments conducted by [International Food Policy Research Institute \(IFPRI\)](#) indicate that levels of food security deteriorated throughout 2022. The most alarming rates of hunger are in Kayah (9.8 per cent), Chin (9.9 per cent) and Tanintharyi (12.6 per cent). More pressing are the needs of children: more than one third of 6–23 month old children are reported to have inadequate diets, and 15.8 per cent of 25–59 month old children are experiencing poor diet quality.
- Another [IFPRI assessment](#) highlights that input prices during the dry season increased compared to 2021. By 55 per cent for urea, 25 per cent for mechanization and 16 per cent for labour. These increasing prices, coupled with the deteriorating security situation, have negatively affected the overall performance of the agricultural sector at the macro level increasing the need for support.
- A longer-term solution is needed to ensure the adequate coverage of food needs of IDPs in camps located in areas outside the control of the de facto authorities. There is a need to look at a mixture of standardized food basket distributions and fresh food voucher top-ups. In Kachin, approximately 56,000 IDPs are now facing food shortages. The modality of ready-to-eat rations needs to be introduced in areas of recurrent displacement.

Response

- In 2022, Food Security Cluster partners reached more than 3.1 million people with food distribution. In addition, partners provided the following other types of assistance: Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance (MPCA) to 234,563; farmers' training to 14,235 people; crops, vegetables, and seed kits to 175,726 people; income generating activities and small grants to 5,949; and cash-for-work schemes to 9,449 people.
- The Cluster reached 131 per cent of its target under cluster objective (CO) 1 and 88 per cent of its target under CO2, which focus on food distribution. However, only 27 per cent of the target under CO3 was reached leaving significant gaps in the provision of livelihood and agriculture assistance.
- In December, Food Security partners undertook the following responses:
 - In Sagaing, two partners operating have reached 3,354 people with one off unconditional cash distribution covering their monthly food needs.

- In southern Shan, one partner provided an additional 8,792 people with crops, vegetables, and seeds kits.
- In eastern Bago conditional MPCA (51,000 MMK per person) was provided to 6,002 people at the value of.
- In Kayah, agriculture inputs were distributed to 4,707 people living vulnerable host communities in the rural areas. The packages included 50 kilograms of compound fertilizer and 6 types of vegetable seeds.
- In Magway, two partners were active in villages and IDP sites provided unconditional MPCA to 2,931 people. They also distributed in kind food basket support to 1,141 severely food-insecure people. In addition, eight partners assisted a total of 6,896 people with disabilities.

Gaps & Constraints

- In December 2022, the most significant gap remained livelihoods and agriculture assistance. Humanitarian cluster partners' collective efforts reached only 25 per cent of the initial target set for the year. (5Ws reported submissions of humanitarian partners from Jan-Nov 2022).
- The consistent underfunding of livelihoods and agriculture projects, in favor of more emergency-type food assistance has led to an increasing number of people sliding into more severe levels of food insecurity as their assets continue to deplete.
- Access to hard-to-reach areas remains a major challenge for implementing partners, resulting in 103 targeted townships not being reached by any of the 31 reporting Cluster partners in 2022.
- Partners are concerned about the impact of the new NGO requirements on their operations supporting the most vulnerable communities throughout the country.



Health

Needs

- Essential medicines and first aid kits are urgently needed by affected people, particularly IDPs, nationwide due to increasing armed conflict.
- Increased ambulance services to refer patients to secondary and tertiary hospitals are needed.
- Basic medicines to treat seasonal influenza and common illnesses, such as colds, diarrhea, fever, and coughs are urgently needed, particularly for children in IDP camps.
- Drug supplies to control non-communicable diseases (NCDs), such as hypertension and diabetes are needed. There is a heightened need for drugs to treat hypertension in southern Shan and Kayah in particular.

Response

- In Kachin, cluster partners provided primary health services through 4 partners at 20 mobile clinics, serving 1,878 people in 4 townships in December 2022. In Bhamo township, 100 Female Dignity Kits and 100 Clean Delivery Kits were pre-positioned in Bhamo township.
- In northern Shan, 9 mobile clinics provided health services to 3,403 IDPs and other affected people in 8 townships.
- In Kayah, the following response were undertaken in December 2022:
 - 415 IDPs and other crisis-affected people received primary healthcare services through 14 mobile clinics in Hlaingbwe township.
 - 336 IDPs and other crisis-affected people received primary healthcare through 8 mobile clinics in Thandaunggyi township.
 - 22 pregnant women received Emergency Obstetric Care referral support in Hpa-An township.
- In Kayah, emergency referral support for caesarean deliveries was provided to 120 pregnant women in Demoso township.

Gaps & Constraints

- In most parts of Kachin, issues with funding, transportation and security continue to challenge the ability of partners to deliver health services and conduct health education sessions.
- Transportation and safety concerns are hampering youth from accessing adolescent, sexual and reproductive health services, especially for those living in hard-to-reach areas. The health cluster is considering multi-sectoral advocacy efforts to bolster youth safety.
- Implementing healthcare services in conflict areas remains challenging because of frequent and scattered armed clashes, numerous checkpoints, transportation difficulties, the risk of explosive ordnance and movement restrictions.

- Regulatory issues with the importation of health commodities, especially delays related to the issuance of Tax Exemption Certificates (TEC) for HIV, Malaria and Tuberculosis drugs, continue to pose ongoing challenges and are likely to continue for commodities moving into 2023. Continued delays in securing timely clearance have the potential to paralyze critical health services. Partners have been exploring mitigation measures, including close follow-up, planning longer lead times for procurement to create better buffers, moving stock to areas facing imminent stock-outs/stock shortages for a longer duration at service points, and emergency procurement through partners.

Nutrition

Needs

- In Rakhine, local CSOs need more technical support and nutrition-related equipment to enhance the screening and referral of malnourished children. The Nutrition Cluster is working with local partners to provide this support, including mid-upper arm circumference (MUAC) tapes for mothers. Specifically, there is a need for nutrition treatment for 14 children newly identified with SAM; 50 children with moderate acute malnutrition (MAM); and 8 malnourished pregnant and lactating women (PLW) in Rakhine in December.
- In Kachin, displaced mothers in Bhamo township urgently need nutrition therapeutic and preventative treatment, according to partners.
- In Sagaing and Chin, there is still a need to provide treatment for children with Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) utilising ready-to-use therapeutic foods (RUTF). There remains a need to provide a full range of therapeutic food options, including ready-to-use supplementary food (RUSF), to treat MAM cases.
- In the Southeast, there is still a need to strengthen coordination across partners for a better coverage of response. The Nutrition Cluster is working on various communication modalities to address this.

Response

- In Rakhine, the following activities were undertaken in December:
 - A nutrition implementing partner (IPs) supported integrated management of acute malnutrition (IMAM) training with Basic Health Staff
 - The Nutrition Cluster continued its bi-lateral coordination and advocacy efforts in northern Rakhine to ensure the referral of malnutrition cases and provision of nutritional treatment supplies.
- In the Northwest, cluster partners continued to screen and refer children for SAM and MAM treatment in Falam and Tedim townships in Sagaing, and in Paletwa township in Chin. Partners plan to implement these activities in Natmawk, Pakokku and Minbu townships of Magway.
- In Shan, cluster partners continued to provide nutrition supplements in several townships:
 - An INGO provided unconditional cash assistance (MMK126,000/US\$15 per head) to 140 lactating mothers in Kutkai, Namhkan and Namtu townships.
 - A local partner provided unconditional cash assistance to 220 people in Hsipaw, Kutkai, Kyaukme and Lashio townships.
 - UNICEF and two partners implemented nutrition-related activities in Hsipaw, Kyaukme, Lashio, Muse, Namhkan, Nawngkhio and Tangyan townships in January 2023.

Gaps & Constraints

- In Rakhine, there are insufficient nutrition supplies to meet the needs of 190 children with SAM, 619 children with MAM, and 121 malnourished PLW. This is due to ungranted travel authorisations. Additionally, there remains a projected shortfall of supplies in the first quarter of 2023.
- In northern Rakhine, nutrition supplies from Sittwe have not been transported to areas of need as TAs have not yet been granted. The cluster is currently following up on the issue.
- In Kachin, due to armed conflict and movement restrictions, village volunteers especially in Bhamo township, cannot reach people in need and face challenges in transporting nutrition supplies in Hpakant township.
- In the Northwest, it has only been possible to transport nutrition supplies to Magway, and not to townships in Chin and Sagaing.
- Nutrition partners in Pakokku, Pauk and Myaing townships in Magway are facing difficulties in obtaining approvals from local authorities to operate mobile clinics.

Protection

Needs

- Persistent pressure by the de facto authorities for IDPs to return to their villages of origin in Rakhine, Kachin and southern Shan remains a major protection concern, with fears a premature push will risk the safety and

security of IDPs amid ongoing fighting and heavy landmine contamination. IDPs in Myebon and Pauktaw townships in Rakhine and in Paletwa in southern Chin were provided with assistance packages to return. The de facto authorities in Kyaukpyu township also continue to push for IDPs in Kyauk Ta Lone IDP camp to move to an identified relocation site which is exposed to flooding in the wet season.

- In the Southeast, the following concerns and needs were identified:
 - Death and injury due to indiscriminate shelling; arrest and detention; destruction of civilian property; and restrictions on humanitarian access remain major protection concerns in Kayah and southern Shan.
 - Arbitrary arrest and detention; destruction of civilian properties; human trafficking; and death and injury due to indiscriminate shelling remain the main protection risks in Kayin, Mon, Tanintharyi and eastern Bago.
- In the Northwest, humanitarian needs remain extremely high, particularly in Sagaing and Magway, due to regular airstrikes, use of landmines, ERW, and destruction of civilian properties. There is a particular need to enhance protection for children, as well as survivors of gender-based violence and explosive ordnance incidents.
- In Kachin and northern Shan, the following needs were identified in December 2022:
 - Lifesaving assistance is urgently needed for IDPs who have recently returned to their villages of origin. Flexible funding is also needed to support transitional solutions for returning IDPs in their villages of origin or in relocation sites in Kachin.
 - In Kachin, reports of drug use, early marriage, and child trafficking are on the rise. There is a need to move beyond one-off protection assistance and towards more in depth Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) for displaced families and children.
- In Rakhine, the following concerns and needs continue to prevail:
 - Humanitarian needs remain high in the previously restricted townships despite the AA-MAF ceasefire agreement and the gradual provision of humanitarian assistance.
 - In central Rakhine, people are concerned about their safety and security due to military presence in around their villages.
 - There are increasing concerns over arrest or detention of Rohingya IDPs, including children, who are trying to leave Myanmar through irregular travel routes in search of better living conditions and opportunities.
 - Mine action activities, including clearance and mine risk education, are urgently needed, especially in Ponnagyun, Minbya, Kyauktaw, and Myebon townships, which have witnessed heavy fighting over recent months.

Response

- Between January and November 2022, partners provided Child Protection-related awareness sessions to 27,118 children and caregivers. A total of 35,167 children and parents received MHPSS services; more than 609 child protection staff and community-based volunteers received technical capacity building; and 95,693 children and adults received explosive ordnance risk education (EORE).
- In the Southeast, the following activities were undertaken in December 2022:
 - UNHCR, together with its implementing partners, distributed essential relief items to 565 returnees in Min Let Pan village, in Myawaddy township in Kayin; approved the distribution of cash assistance to 45 cases in Kyaukkyi township in eastern Bago; and distributed recreational materials to 1,298 students in eastern Bago.
 - Mine Action partners completed the service provider list for the Southeast; developed IEC materials; and conducted EORE ToT sessions in 18 schools in Hpa-An District.
 - In Kayin and Mon, child protection emergency kits were distributed to 2,025 IDP children; children protection messages on risk mitigation for family separation, GBV and landmines were shared with 3,739 people, including children; and 485 children and adolescents received MHPSS services.
 - Child protection partners handled 12 new cases, in addition to 72 ongoing cases that are being processed in Mon, Kayin, Tanintharyi and eastern Bago.
 - Legal aid was provided to 11 children and youth who were arrested for lack of travel documents in Mon and Kayin.
 - A safe channel to report sexual exploitation and abuse was established for 253 communities in Mon and Kayin. A community-based mechanism, which encompasses of 13 groups, including 40 community members, was established in eastern Bago.
 - Prevention and response services for sexual exploitation and abuse were provided to 1,939 adolescents in Mon and Kayin.

- 1,000 MHPSS IEC materials (comic books and messages) were distributed in Sagaw Karen, and 300 PSEA poster sets were distributed in IDP sites and host communities in Kayin and eastern Bago.
- In close coordination with the health and education clusters, a training on CP, PSEA, GBV, MHPSS, EORE and Psychosocial First Aid (PFA) was organized for 101 aid workers and community-based frontline responders.
- In southern Shan, awareness raising sessions on Child Protection, Child Right Convention, EORE, Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism and child marriage were conducted for 106 IDPs in December 2022.
- In Kayin and Mon, GBV partners provided GBV awareness sessions to more than 35,000 people, including IDPs, in December as part the 16-days of activism against GBV action plan. In addition, three GBV pocket guide trainings were provided to service providers and a SRHR training to members of the GBV WG.
- In southern Shan, GBV partners distributed 200 dignity kits in Mawmai township and conducted 5 MHPSS trainings in Kayah and southern Shan
- In Kachin, a risk assessment and mitigation exercise were conducted among new IDPs in Bhamo to assess the risks in their villages of origin before their return; identify prevention and mitigation measures; and develop emergency plans in the event of further displacement.
- In southern Rakhine, UNHCR and OCHA conducted field missions to Taungup, Thandwe and Gwa townships to identify the capacity of existing civil society organizations (CSOs) to respond to future emergencies. The mission also aimed to strengthen the capacity of about 17 CSOs on protection services in these townships.
- Guidelines on GBV mainstreaming in Cash interventions were developed in the English and Myanmar languages and disseminated among Cash and GBV WG members in December 2022.

Gaps & Constraints

- Across the Southeast, access remains a huge challenge due to unpredictable armed clashes, landmines, checkpoints, and breakdown of telecommunication and internet services. EORE awareness is essential for all partners and affected people
- Due to access restraints and the limited number of CP actors, child protection services, including case management, are inadequate to reach the number of children in need.
- In the Northwest, humanitarian access constraints and shortfalls in funding continue to impact on the delivery of humanitarian assistance at a time when needs are increasing.
- In Rakhine, protection partners are still facing difficulties in reaching affected people despite November's ceasefire agreement.

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

Needs

- In Kachin, more than 200 IDPs who have been living in the forest in Tsawlaw township for the past 4 months urgently need humanitarian assistance, including shelter and NFI kits. These IDPs are unable to return home due to insecurity in their villages of origin in the same township. They have received basic food items from the nearest small village and have access to clean water but need further assistance.
In northern Sagaing, more than 10,000 people were reported to have been displaced in Indaw township in late December 2022. These IDPs are dispersed across the township and surrounding area and there is a need for humanitarian assistance.

Response

- In central Rakhine, the following responses were undertaken in December 2022:
 - 45 longhouses for about 2,145 IDPs in Kaman and Rohingya camps were constructed.
 - Partners provided shelter kits to 1,530 newly arrived IDPs in Kyauktaw township.
 - NFI kits were replenished as contingency stocks for more than 4,000 IDPs, primarily in Kyauktaw and Mrauk-U townships.
 - Partners provided NFI kits for 90 newly arrived IDPs in Sittwe and Ponnagyun townships.
- In the Northwest, the following responses were undertaken in December 2022:
 - Cluster partners conducted in-person rapid protection assessments at 45 sites in Hakha and Mindat townships in Chin, covering 9,092 people. IDPs in 15 sites in Mindat township received shelter items in December 2022.
 - Partners provided NFI assistance to about 200 households (~ 1,000 IDPs) in Pakokku township in Magway.
- In Kayin, partners provided NFI assistance to 3,029 IDPs in Myawaddy township in December 2022.

Gaps & Constraints

- In Kachin, humanitarian partners are unable to reach the IDPs sheltering in the forest in Tsawlaw township because of ongoing conflict and the presence of armed actors. Cluster partners are looking into alternative ways to help these IDPs.
- In northern Sagaing, limited access to Indaw township has limited the ability of partners to assess and respond to the needs of IDPs residing there.
- In central Rakhine, speculative land sales within Rohingya and Kaman camps continue to threaten humanitarian space and infrastructure and limit the potential options for long-term solutions. Multi-sector coordination is underway to address this issue.
- Slow processing of TAs, as well as lengthy delays at checkpoints, continue to hinder partners in delivering timely assistance to affected and displaced people. High-level advocacy to encourage the delegation of responsibility between key de facto authorities in the approval processes could help to mitigate this situation.
- In the Northwest, access constraints remain a major challenge for procurement and transportation of humanitarian aid. The new NGO registration requirements are likely to increase delivery challenges. Onerous reporting procedures required of implementing partners by larger humanitarian agencies are hindering timely service delivery.
- Access constraints, safety, and security risks, including for humanitarian workers, present serious impediments to responses in the Southeast. Some local partners in Mon have suspended their operations due to the new registration requirements.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Needs

- In Rakhine, 41 per cent of 153 AA-MAF displacement sites still lack sufficient water; 44 per cent remain without appropriate sanitation; and 79 per cent still have hygiene gaps (Cluster 3W analysis, November 2022).
- In the Northwest, 72 per cent of 699 displacements sites covered by WASH partners still lack appropriate sanitation; and 95 per cent of them had hygiene gaps in November 2022 due to funding and access constraints (Cluster 3W analysis, November 2022).
- In Kachin, more than 8,800 newly displaced people in the townships of Bhamo, Hpakant, Mogaung, Mohnyin, Momauk, Myitkyina, Puta-O, Shwegu and Waingmaw townships needed water supply, hygiene kits and emergency sanitation facilities in December 2022. 280 IDPs who are hosted in religious buildings in Hpakant township need hygiene items.
- Across the Southeast, newly displaced people in Kyaukkyi township in eastern Bago; in Hpapun, Kawkaeik, Kyainseikgyi, Myawaddy and Thandaunggyi townships in Kayin; and in Dawei and Tanintharyi townships in Tanintharyi are still in need of WASH assistance, according to partners.

Response

- In Rakhine, WASH partners organized 394 hygiene promotion sessions and provided critical WASH supplies to 91 of the 151 AA-MAF displacement sites across 8 townships, reaching 48,737 IDPs in December 2022. These supplies included 2,239 hygiene kits, more than 980 bars of soap, and about 2,195 sanitary pads for women and girls.
- Across the Southeast, essential WASH supplies were directly provided to more than 10,000 displaced and affected people in the townships of Dawei, Kyaikmaraw, Thandaunggyi and Taungoo in eastern Bago, Kayin, Mon and Tanintharyi in December 2022.
- In northern Shan, the following WASH responses were undertaken in November and December 2022:
 - UNICEF and a local partner provided 1,200 hygiene kits, 1,200 water containers, 10 drums of chlorine bleaching powder and water purification items to about 10,300 IDPs in protracted camps in Hseni, Kutkai, Muse and Namhkan townships and 160 IDPs in a temporary site in Tangyan township in late November 2022.
 - Two INGOs provided emergency assistance, including WASH items to 210 displaced and affected people in Namhsan township in December 2022.
- In December, WASH partners conducted a technical assessment in Ho Peik Gyi displacement site in Lashio township to find a sustainable water supply for year-round consumption.
- In the Northwest, WASH partners distributed 327 water filters, 187 water pumps and fan blades, 432 jerrycans/buckets, 372 hygiene kits, more than 4,590 bars of soap and 515 sanitary pads in December 2022, reaching:
 - 39,815 IDPs in 231 of the 336 displacement sites across 6 townships in Chin
 - 3,868 IDPs in 21 of the 52 displacement sites across 2 townships in Magway
 - 89,061 IDPs in 127 of the 311 displacement sites across 12 townships in Sagaing

- In Kachin, one local partner has been providing basic WASH services to 792 displaced households (3,742 IDPs) in 12 camps in Bhamo, Mansi, Momauk and Shwegu townships. This project will be completed in March 2023. Another local partner provided cash for food, hygiene kits and dignity kits to 280 newly displaced people in Hpakant township on 16 December 2022.
- Across the Southeast, WASH cluster partners provided 195,232 people with water services; 80,994 people with sanitation services; and 291,890 people with hygiene services during December.

Gaps & Constraints

- In Rakhine, access constraints and MOU requirements for WASH partners continue to impede the granting of TAs and the delivery of humanitarian items. Checkpoints have also prevented the transportation of NFIs and WASH supplies, construction activities and staff travel to target locations throughout the state.
- In Rakhine, land issues continue to present a significant challenge for WASH infrastructure with claimed landowners requesting land compensation fees, particularly in Rohingya IDP camps in Sittwe township.
- In southern Shan, with the increased movement restrictions by the de facto authorities, WASH partners have been facing more limited access to displacement sites.
- In the Northwest, access limits, blocking of transportation and insecurity continue to hinder WASH responses to affected people.
- There is a funding gap for the WASH response to 12 IDP camps (729 households/3,742 people) in Bhamo, Mansi, Momauk and Shwegu townships.
- In the Southeast, most of the roads that are leading to Myawaddy and Kyainseikgyi townships in Kayin have become dangerous for transporting humanitarian supplies, posing a threat to the safety and security of aid workers.

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