

HIGHLIGHTS

- Most displaced children in Rakhine State without adequate access to primary and secondary education.
- Floods hit Bago, Kachin, Mon, and Rakhine States
- People displaced by violence in northern Shan State urgently need livelihood support.
- Women in IDP camps in Rakhine face significant barriers to adequate reproductive health care.

Key FIGURES

People targeted for humanitarian assistance in Rakhine State

IDPs*	137,000
Food insecure people	70,000
People in isolated villages	50,000
People in host communities	50,000

People targeted for humanitarian assistance in Kachin and northern Shan states

IDPs*	99,000
People in host communities	20,000

FUNDING

192 million requested (US\$)

48% funded

Source: UNHCR, OCHA, CCCM
 * UNHCR (CCCM) figures on 31 May.



Girl at school in Sittwe, Rakhine State. Credit: OCHA

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Critical education gaps for children in Rakhine

About 140,000 people in Rakhine State were displaced by violence in 2012. Many were children who have been without adequate access to primary and secondary education ever since then. International humanitarian organizations including UNICEF, Save the Children International (SCI) and the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) have expanded primary education programmes over the last six months for children in camps, leading to an increase in access to primary level education from 50 per cent at the beginning of the year, to over 70 per cent at the mid-year, benefitting approximately 23,500 children. This expansion in coverage was achieved through increasing the number of learning facilities in camps, training additional teachers and distributing educational materials.

However, major gaps remain with an estimated 3,500 primary school-aged children in camps without any access to education and an estimated 28,000 vulnerable children in other parts of Rakhine State requiring support. Displaced children have only received a limited curriculum for the last two years, typically taught by volunteer teachers with basic training and little or no experience of teaching. Humanitarian organizations are working to mobilize resources to expand the curriculum provided in camps to align with the Myanmar national curriculum to improve quality and encourage closer linkages with the Government education system.

Secondary education falling behind

The most critical gap remains for adolescents (aged 11-17 years) in the camps and host communities which currently have very limited or no access to education. Currently only 8 per cent of the estimated 24,500 adolescents in camps have access to basic non-formal literacy programmes provided by international organizations. Continued neglect of this vulnerable group represents a failure to protect them from the rising risks of migration, trafficking, crime and other forms of exploitation. Although international organizations have some funding in place for the remainder of 2014 to expand secondary education services, this coverage is unlikely to extend to more than 30 per cent of IDP adolescents, with up to an estimated 60,000 vulnerable adolescents living in surrounding and isolated communities left completely without education opportunities.

Supporting education for all communities in Rakhine State

Almost 30 per cent of all children in Rakhine State are not enrolled in primary education, and only 5 per cent of children have access to pre-school education compared to the national average of 23 per cent. UNICEF recently released its two-year State Education Work Plan, which outlines increased development support to improve quality and access to education in five new townships, as well as continued emergency education support for displaced children. However, greater funding and implementation capacity is required for organizations to scale up education programmes.

Seasonal floods displace over 36,000 people

Over 16,000 people were displaced by severe seasonal flooding in the Bago District during the first week of August, according to the Government's Relief and Resettlement Department (RRD), with over 25,000 people affected by the floods. The overflowing Pegu River inundated adjacent villages and farmlands, displacing local people, who found temporary refuge in monasteries, schools and other shelters. According to the World Food Programme (WFP), who conducted a needs assessment in the affected areas, the majority of the flood victims are casual labor workers, fishermen and farmers with no other livelihoods opportunities.

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Authorities provided emergency assistance, such as food rations and some non-food items. Following requests from the State and Union Government for emergency food assistance and with support from the Australian Government, WFP also distributed two-week food rations to approximately 25,800 flood-affected people in 56 locations in Bago. Food rations consisted of rice, pulses and salt. The emergency response was facilitated by various Union and regional officials, including the Minister of Security and Border Affairs, District Officers, Townships Administrators and Camp Management Committee members.



Flood-affected people with food rations.
Credit: WFP

Floods hit areas throughout Myanmar

In Hpakant Township in Kachin, over 3,400 people were displaced by floods after several days of heavy rains in late August. People took shelter in monasteries and churches. According to local media reports, local volunteers helped the flood victims to move to shelters, as well as providing food supplies.

In Mon State, some 7,000 people were also temporarily evacuated and in Rakhine State, some 6,400 people were displaced due to floods and rising river levels. Evacuees have since returned to their homes and camps have been closed, according to RRD. In total, over 36,000 people were displaced by floods or strong winds during the month of August. In most cases, people took shelter with relatives, in monasteries or schools and were able to return home within a few days. Recurrent seasonal floods and strong winds highlight the importance of strengthening disaster preparedness in Myanmar.

Livelihood support needed for displaced people in northern Shan State

Some 5,000 people are estimated to be displaced in northern Shan State due to conflict between the Government of Myanmar Army, the Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA) and other non-state actors, which first erupted in 2012. The most recent displacement was in July 2014, when 800 people were displaced in Namhkan Township. These people have now returned to their homes in Man Pu village according to humanitarian organizations operating in the area. Many of those displaced have experienced multiple displacements over the past three years.

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Currently, humanitarian organizations are providing food assistance, shelter, water and sanitation to the displaced. MSF is also operating mobile health clinics. The majority of these activities are implemented in partnership with local NGOs KMSS or KBC. A recent

Emergency preparedness and repositioning of emergency stocks is essential

mission by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) to camps in Muse, Namhkan and Man Win Gyi to assess the humanitarian situation, found that while the most acute needs were met, many displaced people expressed the need for livelihoods opportunities and/or direct cash transfers. After three years of crisis, they said that this would help decrease their reliance on humanitarian assistance and give them greater independence. Displaced people also overwhelmingly expressed their wish to return home and for their children to be able to grow up outside camps.

Preparing for the winter

Humanitarian organizations in the area reported that there was a need for winter clothes and blankets for those most recently displaced, for displaced people living in colder areas and for children who had outgrown their old winter clothes. Furthermore, organizations providing shelter assistance report that there is a need for suitable land to build adequate shelters and meet housing needs of newly displaced people.

While the area is currently relatively calm, emergency preparedness and repositioning of emergency stocks is essential due to continued tensions, sporadic outbreaks of fighting, the frequency of floods and landslides, and the difficulty in accessing some of the areas hosting displaced people in northern Shan State. Some organizations have already repositioned emergency relief supplies in Muse and Lashio.

Inadequate reproductive health services for vulnerable women in Rakhine

Many of the internally displaced people in Rakhine State face particular challenges accessing medical care, including reproductive health services. Eighteen mobile medical teams, including 10 UNFPA-sponsored midwives, as well as doctors and health assistants, are providing much-needed reproductive health services to some 90,000 people in camps for displaced people and in host communities. The mobile health teams – working with the State Department of Health and in coordination with the Myanmar Medical Association – are undertaking daily medical missions in townships affected by communal conflict.

Midwives are not allowed to stay in the camps overnight

Since early May, the midwives have provided services in Sittwe, Myebon, Pauk Taw, RatheDaung, and Mrauk-U townships. Among the services they provide, the mobile health teams identify high-risk symptoms in pregnant women and then refer these cases to appropriate facilities in Sittwe or Darpaing for special treatment. During July, they provided antenatal care, postnatal care, and family planning services to 1031 women in 15 camps. The teams also offered health education sessions about topics related to safe motherhood and newborn care, including how to recognize life-threatening symptoms in newborns.

However, significant barriers to adequate reproductive health care remain. The ten midwives and five auxiliary midwives currently available are not enough to provide reproductive healthcare



At the Ohn Daw Gyi 1 IDP camp in Sittwe, a midwife explains how to make an oral rehydration solution to treat children with life-threatening diarrhea. Credit: UNFPA

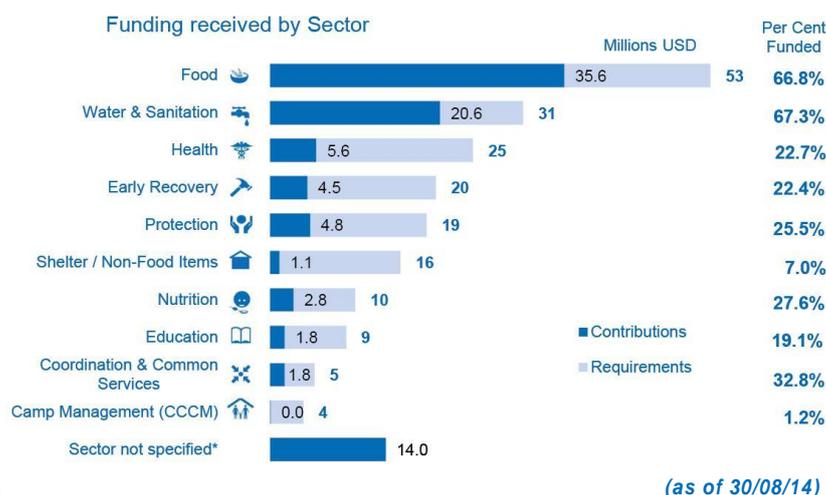
for displaced people and vulnerable communities in Rakhine, according to UNFPA. Although the State Health Department has recently taken the welcome step of deploying a small number of male health workers to be on call at health facilities at night, midwives are not allowed to stay in the camps overnight, severely restricting the amount of time they can provide critical health services to those in need.

48% of humanitarian funding requirements met

The United Nations and its partners issued an appeal for US\$192 million to cover humanitarian funding requirements in Myanmar in 2014. This is needed to assist 421,000 conflict-affected people in Rakhine, Kachin, and northern Shan States. As of 5 September 2014, donors have contributed \$92.6 million, and the appeal is funded at 48 per cent.

The European Union (ECHO) is the largest humanitarian donor to Myanmar during 2014, committing \$26.8 million. ECHO is followed by the United Kingdom (\$20.8 million), Japan (\$19.3 million), the United States (\$11.2 million), Australia (\$9.3 million), Sweden (\$6.3 million), Switzerland (\$5.8 million), the CERF (\$5.5 million), Denmark (\$4.9 million), and Germany (\$4.2 million).

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