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## HIGHLIGHTS

- Fighting in northern Shan State displaces 800 people.
- Strong winds and heavy rains cause landslides and damages to shelters.
- Healthcare services in Rakhine remain inadequate and MSF-Holland and Malteser have not yet been able to resume their activities
- Humanitarian organizations provide support to children in boarding schools in Kachin.



Student at Alen Bum school, Laiza, Kachin. July '14. OCHA

## 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\$)

45% funded

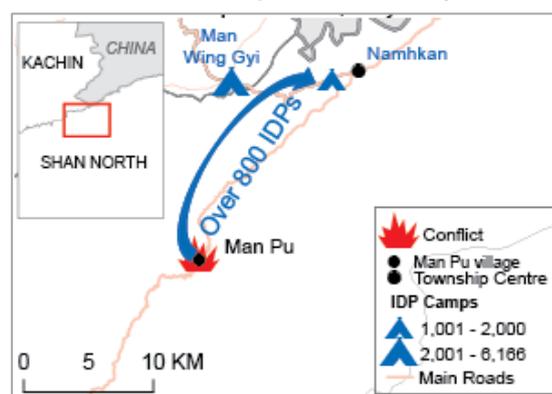
Source: UNHCR, OCHA, CCCM

\* UNHCR (CCCM) figures on 31 May.

## Fighting in northern Shan displaces 800 people

Fighting between the Government of Myanmar Army and the Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA) from 19 to 21 July displaced over 800 people from Man Pu village to Namhkan town, in northern Shan State. Approximately half of those displaced were children under the age of 18. According to local media reports, at least one civilian was killed during the fighting.

### Northern Shan displacement, July 2014



Many of the displaced people sheltered with families in the host community, while others moved into a community-owned building in Namhkan town. National and international organizations provided assistance to displaced families. The Kachin Baptist Convention (KBC) distributed food and UNHCR non-food-items such as blankets, soap and tarpaulins and the UN World Food Programme provided a two-week food ration to over 800 people. In addition, Save the Children International provided temporary latrines and basic psycho-social support, and they also assisted with tracing of family members who were separated during the fighting.

While the majority of the displaced had returned to Man Pu village by the end of the month, tensions remain high and humanitarian organizations are continuing to monitor the situation closely.

## Civilians are killed by landslides and damage resulting from heavy rain and strong winds

In July, heavy seasonal rains and strong winds throughout the country, in particular in the lower parts of Myanmar, caused damage, flooding or the collapse of riverbanks in several regions, including Ayeyawaddy, Bago, Kayin, Magway, Rakhine, Shan, Tanintharyi and Yangon states, according to the Myanmar Relief and Resettlement Department (RRD). In some instances these events caused small-scale temporary displacement, with people usually able to return home within a few days. On 13 July, a landslide caused by heavy rain killed seven people in Tarchileik Township, Shan State, according to RRD.

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On 22 July, a landslide killed five people, including three children, in Je Yang camp, close to Laiza, in Kachin State. People from more than 120 shelters in Je Yang camp at risk of further landslides were relocated and are now staying in tents provided by the Chinese Red Cross. The tents are however not able to withstand heavy rain and strong wind and plans are being made to relocate families to a safer location. While a new site has been identified by the IDP and Refugee Relief Committee (IRRC), the Kachin Independence Organization's humanitarian branch, and resources have been made available to construct shelters, the site still lacks adequate water supply and latrines. UNHCR provided relief items, including blankets, mats and buckets, to these families during a cross-line mission from 28 July to 1 August.

Landslides and floods were also reported following heavy rains on 21 and 22 July in Pang Hseng area in Muse Township, in northern Shan State. According to local NGOs, rice paddy fields in at least seven villages were destroyed. Damages were also reported to infrastructure, including bridges and public water tanks, and to a small number of homes. Local NGOs report that access to some affected areas is still difficult due to infrastructure damage, complicating delivery of assistance and assessments, and that more villages could be affected. Farmers, including displaced people staying in camps in Muse town, lost their rice crops for the coming planting season and local organizations report that affected households will likely be in need of seeds to replant crops, as well as food assistance.



UNHCR helps victims of landslides in Je Yang, 31 July 2014. Credit: OCHA

### **Shelters are damaged in camps for displaced people in Rakhine State**



Repairs following strong winds in Dar Paing camp, rural Sittwe, July 2014. Credit: DRC/Kaspar Roelle

In the third week of July, heavy winds caused damage to 38 shelters and two temporary learning spaces in Dar Paing camp in rural Sittwe, Rakhine. The Government responded providing rice to affected families, and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) provided tarpaulins as a temporary measure for the most seriously damaged buildings. The Danish Refugee Council (DRC) distributed non-food-items, including blankets, buckets, tarpaulins, rope and soap, and repaired affected shelters within five days. In the following two weeks, an additional 10

shelters were damaged in another three camps in rural Sittwe. With more rains and storms anticipated in the coming weeks, DRC and other international organizations are continuing to prioritize repairs to damaged shelters in camps.

## **MSF-H activities remain suspended and aid agencies still looking for offices in Rakhine**

The majority of the more than 300 staff who were temporarily relocated following the attacks on UN and International NGO (INGO) premises in Sittwe at the end March are now back in Sittwe. Overall, however, there has been a big reduction in the presence of humanitarian staff in Rakhine, particularly since MSF-Holland (which previously had over

*With more rains and storms anticipated in the coming weeks, humanitarian organizations will continue to repair weather incurred damages to shelters in camps.*

*While the majority of staff relocated after the attacks on UN and INGO offices at the end of March have returned to Sittwe, many have not yet found suitable office space and MSF-Holland (which previously had over 500 staff in Rakhine) has not yet been able to resume its activities.*

500 staff in Rakhine) has not been able to resume its activities since they were suspended by the Government in February.

Although staff who were temporarily relocated following the March attacks have mostly returned, working conditions in Rakhine remain far from satisfactory. Many staff are still living in hotels and working from their hotel rooms, as they remain constrained by the limited suitable office space and accommodation available in the “Southern Quarter” of Sittwe, a designated area where international organizations have been told to have their premises and where the Government is providing extra security. While a small extension to the area was approved by the state Emergency Coordination Centre (ECC) in early July, there are not enough suitable premises and buildings in the proposed extension area. At the end of July, office space and housing is still needed for over 120 staff.

## Health coverage in Rakhine increases, but services still fall short of meeting critical needs

Joint health teams, comprised of staff from the Ministry of Health (MoH) and health staff from national and international organizations, as well as independent health teams, are continuing to provide health services to displaced people and other vulnerable communities in Rakhine. The number of healthcare staff in the joint teams increased from 108 in June to 115 at the end of July.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), the number of health consultations has been increasing steadily since April, when international organizations had to suspend most of their activities. However, the number of medical referrals is still below previous levels (in July there were 30 referrals). The low number of patient referrals is partially due to logistical constraints and movement restrictions, which limit access to care, as well as the limited number of health and referral facilities. Reports from displaced people and vulnerable communities also indicate that in some cases fear of travelling to Sittwe for treatment are preventing vulnerable people from getting the treatment they need.

Despite efforts by national and international health teams, coverage is still well-below levels prior to the suspension of MSF Holland (MSF-H) and Malteser. According to WHO, mobile health teams conducted on average 206 weekly health visits in Rakhine State in July. This is just over 50 per cent of the health services provided in February 2014, prior to the suspension of MSF-H's activities. According to humanitarian organizations working in the health sector, access to healthcare remains severely restricted for many remote and isolated communities, and in particular for vulnerable communities previously served by MSF-H in the northern part of the state.

In July, the MoH provided immunizations against measles, polio, TB meningitis Tuberculosis, diphtheria, tetanus, whooping cough, hepatitis B and influenza to 310 children and 139 pregnant women in Minbya and Kyauktaw townships. Vaccination in all camps in Pauktaw is scheduled for the first week of August. As the rainy season intensified in July, health organizations reported an increased risk of water-borne diseases and vector borne diseases, including malaria and dengue fever. They also reported that heavy rains and flooding in some areas restricted access for health teams to some isolated communities.

### Announcement that MSF-H and Malteser can resume operations in Rakhine

On 23 July, the Rakhine State Government issued a statement inviting the 24 international organizations already working in Rakhine “as well as other United Nations agencies and international non-governmental organizations, including MSF, to participate in development, humanitarian, education, and healthcare programmes in accordance with the wishes of the Rakhine people.” While [the decision was cautiously welcomed by MSF-H](#), some Rakhine community groups publicly stated their disapproval and it remains to be seen what the timeline and modalities for resuming operations will be. MSF-H was until its suspension the largest international medical provider in the state. MSF-H conducted over

*As the rainy season continues, there are increased risks of water-borne and vector-borne diseases, including malaria and dengue fever.*

400,000 consultations in 2013 in the 24 camps for displaced people and in isolated villages where it was working.

The announcement was also welcomed by [Malteser International](#), previously the second biggest international health services provider in Rakhine. Malteser has also not been able to resume its operations in the central part of Rakhine due to community resistance, but continues to implement its programmes in Maungdaw District, with current health activities focusing on tuberculosis, malaria, and maternal and child health.

## Aid agencies provide support to children in boarding schools in Kachin

In the areas beyond Government control in Kachin, local and international organizations have been providing support to children in boarding schools. According to humanitarian staff, these schools have been expanded to allow education to continue for as many displaced children as possible during the conflict.

Save the Children International, in partnership with the local NGOs Wunpawng Ningtoi (WPN) and Kachin Development Group (KDG), have recently started a new programme to address the needs of children and young people in six boarding schools in areas beyond Government control in Laiza and Mai Ja Yang, in Kachin. The programme will also support seven Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) centres established in Mai Ja Yang for children aged 3-5 years.

With funding provided by the UN Emergency Response Fund (ERF), approximately 2,500 children aged 10-18, all displaced children in boarding schools Kachin, will be provided with supplementary, nutrient-rich food until the end of the year, and all students will be provided with learning materials. As part of the programme, living

facilities at the boarding schools will also be improved to provide safer living and learning spaces, with improvements to dormitories, and bedding, as well as to bathing facilities. In addition, the boarding schools in Laiza and Mai Ja Yang will develop child safeguarding policies, with support from local and international humanitarian organizations, which will be reviewed monthly. The project will also provide training and stipends to caregivers in ECCD centres in Mai Ja Yang, as well as improve facilities and support the development of safeguarding policies.

Whilst this will contribute to improving the conditions in the boarding houses, more assistance is needed, according to local officials and humanitarian organizations. This includes ensuring protective learning spaces with gender-sensitive sanitation facilities, provision of trained teachers and teaching learning materials, safe potable water during the rainy and dry season, medical supplies and equipment, and supplementary food support.

International organizations, including UNICEF and Save the Children International, and local NGOs, including KBC and Karuna Myanmar Social Services (KMSS), are also providing emergency education assistance in camps for displaced people in both Government-controlled areas and areas beyond Government control, including distribution of learning materials, construction of temporary learning spaces and training of teachers.

*With funding provided by the UN Emergency Response Fund, approx. 2,500 children will be provided with supplementary, nutrient-rich food and will be provided with learning materials; 2,500 children will see improvements to their living and learning facilities.*



Students at Alen Bum boarding school, Laiza, 29 Julv 2014. Credit: OCHA

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