## Myanmar: Humanitarian access in Central Rakhine (December 2018)



## **Key Facts & Figures**

99% of staff had regular TA applications approved

9 days is the average TA processing time

28 days is the average TA duration

2 organizations had to resubmit their TA application

2 organizations reported providing ethnicity data on their beneficiaries

Of the organisations that applied for travel authorizations (TAs), all but one received TAs for field access in central Rakhine, albeit after submitting detailed and restrictive paperwork outlining their planned activities. One organization had a TA cancelled during the reporting period. This impacted the ability of humanitarian workers to provide assistance to communities in need. Overall, the highest number of TAs were granted in Sittwe and Pauktaw townships.

Notwithstanding the approval of regular TAs, and as had been the case in previous months, there continue to be reported incidents of additional and duplicate paperwork being requested by local police and camp authorities in central Rakhine, despite the extensive information already provided to the Coordination Committee and Rakhine State Government line agencies regarding humanitarian operations. Increasing the already burdensome bureaucratic processes involved in the TA process reduces the capacity of humanitarian partners to be flexible and respond efficiently to changing circumstances and staffing needs.

The average approval time for regular TAs decreased slightly to 9 days, though the average length of a TA also declined to 28 days. These issues notwithstanding, the Rakhine State Government showed continued willingness during the reporting period to respond to ad hoc requests for TAs if the need arose.

Construction approval delays continued for five organisations, holding up infrastructure improvements which could provide more dignified and safer living conditions for people in need across nine townships.



## **Travel Authorization Requests**

