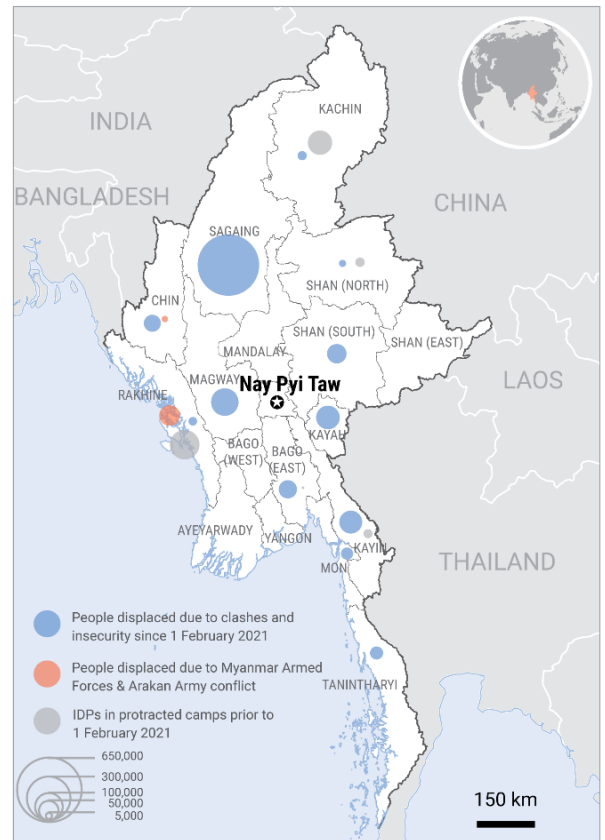


This regular update, covering humanitarian developments up to 26 December, is produced by OCHA Myanmar in collaboration with the Inter-Cluster Coordination Group and UN agencies. Response figures are based on self-reporting by organizations to clusters. The next humanitarian update will be issued at the end of January 2023.

### HIGHLIGHTS & KEY MESSAGES

- Almost two years since the 2021 military takeover, the people of Myanmar continue to suffer amid hostilities and a crippling economic crisis that is being compounded by inflation.
- More than 1.5 million people remain displaced across the country due to insecurity and violence. This is more than double the number a year ago with displaced people now living in undignified conditions and in desperate need in hard-to-reach locations.
- Conflict, contamination with landmines and explosive hazards, tight security, access restrictions, and threats against aid workers, particularly in the Northwest and Southeast, are on the rise, endangering lives and hampering humanitarian operations.
- The informal ceasefire between the Arakan Army (AA) and the Myanmar Armed Forces (MAF) in Rakhine and southern Chin continues to hold but remains very fragile.
- Humanitarian and protection needs are mounting, forcing people to adopt negative coping mechanisms to survive. Women and girls are disproportionately being disproportionately affected.
- The humanitarian community is deeply concerned about the impact of new administrative rules around NGO registration which will further shrink operating space.
- Humanitarians continue to address the emerging needs of affected and displaced people where access is possible, reaching almost four million people in need with critical lifesaving assistance in the year to September.
- As 2022 draws to a close, the 2022 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) remains drastically underfunded with only 35 per cent, leaving a gap of US\$536 million (FTS). A dramatic increase in funding and an expansion of access will be critical for the humanitarian community to reach the 4.5 million people prioritized for life-saving assistance in 2023.



### KEY FIGURES\*

**1.5M**

People internally displaced across Myanmar

**1.1M**

People currently displaced by clashes and insecurity since February 2021

**330K**

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

**34K**

Civilian properties estimated burnt or destroyed since February 2021.<sup>1</sup>

\*Displacement figures fluctuate during any given month. These figures represent the number of people currently displaced. Cumulative numbers for returns and displacement are not always available.

<sup>1</sup> OCHA's data on Sagaing/Magway/Chin (up to 30 November 2022), Progressive Karenni People Force on Kayah (up to 1 December 2022), Data for Myanmar in remaining states (up to 30 November 2022)

## SITUATION OVERVIEW

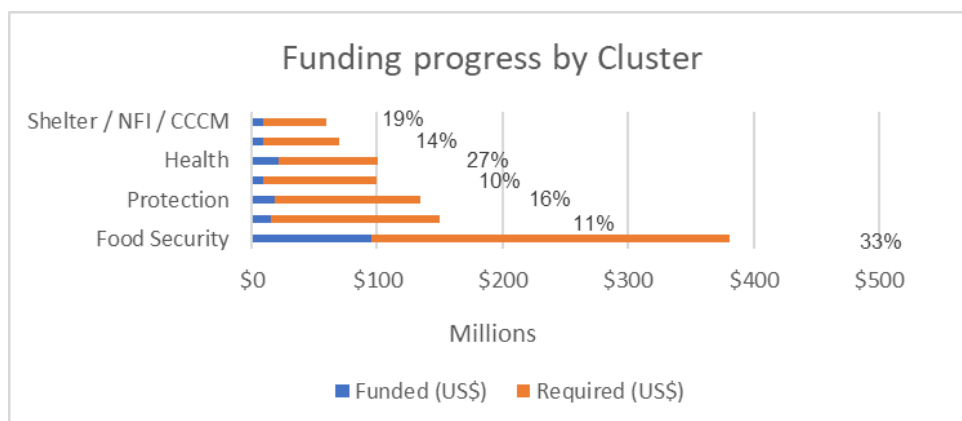
As 2022 draws to an end, humanitarian needs and protection concerns continue to grow across Myanmar, exposing many men, women, boys and girls to constant risks that threaten their physical safety and mental well-being. Almost two years after the military takeover, armed clashes, including the use of heavy weaponry, between the MAF and various Ethnic Armed Organizations (EAOs) and People's Defence Forces (PDFs) in multiple states and regions are now a regular feature of daily life. Internal displacement and destruction of civilian properties have continued unabated, depriving more than 1.5 million people of safe shelter and dignified living conditions.

The economic situation remains fragile and has been further undermined by inflation that has dramatically driven up the cost of basic food items and fuel. According to the Food Security Cluster, 15.2 million people are severely and moderately food insecure heading into 2023, up from 13.2 million people at the same time last year. To survive this multi-dimensional crisis, affected and displaced people have resorted to negative coping mechanisms, including lowering food intake, selling their assets, dropping out of school, engaging in risky migration and marrying their children off early.

Despite the dire humanitarian situation, access to humanitarian assistance continues to be undermined by the imposition of various administrative and physical constraints on the movement of people and goods. The humanitarian community is deeply concerned about new administrative requirements outlined on 28 October 2022 which establish a mandatory registration system for international and national non-government organizations (NGOs) and civil society organizations (CSOs). These new rules have the serious potential to reduce timely and effective delivery of humanitarian assistance to people in need in Myanmar and would severely impede the work of NGOs and CSOs who are the backbone of the humanitarian operation.

With rising needs, ensuring programme continuity and engagement of the NGO and CSO community is critical to ensuring no one is left behind as we move into 2023. The humanitarian community remains committed to staying and delivering for the people of Myanmar, but as they stand, the new requirements are likely to mean that many people in need will miss out on the support they require to survive in 2023. Given the consequences for millions of people in need, and the reality that the implementation infrastructure is not yet fully in place to facilitate the administrative steps outlined, the humanitarian community is proposing a six-month moratorium on any implementation of these new rules. Such a pause would allow an opportunity for discussions at national and sub-national level and would allow space to discuss how to ensure that vital support to people in need is not interrupted.

Heading into 2023, conflict dynamics are expected to remain at the same level or worsen, especially in the Northwest and Southeast. It is estimated that 17.6 million people will be in need next year of whom 4.5 million have been prioritized for urgent assistance.<sup>2</sup> Humanitarians are committed to meeting humanitarian needs of the population, providing food, shelter, health, water and sanitation, education and protection services to crisis-affected and displaced people across the country. However, both a lack of sustained access and of funding remain key obstacles. As of 28 December, the 2022 HRP is only 35 per cent funded, which amounts to only \$290 million out of a total of \$826 million required, leaving significant unmet needs which will flow on into 2023.<sup>3</sup> A repeat of this level of funding in 2023 would have dire consequences and donors are urged to give generously in support of people affected by crisis in Myanmar next year.



<sup>2</sup> Global Humanitarian Overview 2023

<sup>3</sup> Financial Tracking System

## Hostilities continue in the Northwest and Southeast as the year ends

Armed conflict in multiple states and regions is continuing to claim lives, displace men, women and children, destroy homes and sources of livelihood, and pose severe protection risks for the people of Myanmar.

**In Kachin**, conflict between the MAF and the joint forces of Kachin Independence Army (KIA) and PDFs have continued in several townships, particularly in Hpakant and Myitkyina, since early November. Military raids and indiscriminate artillery fire were reported in several villages across Hpakant township; at least two civilians were consequently killed and another 18 civilians, including children, sustained injuries in the villages of Thaug Kawt and Kaungtaw on 23 and 24 November. In addition, about 500 residents of Kaungtaw village fled to safer locations including nearby forests but most returned to their homes in early December. Fierce fighting was also reported near Lonekin and Maw Bon villages in Hpakant township in early December, forcing more than 60 households (248 people) to flee to the nearby village of Sang Hka. Many of them remain displaced in religious compounds, while some were able to return to their homes. Similarly, the security situation in and around Myitkyina remains tense following a heavy deployment of the MAF in the outskirts of the town and subsequent military operations in several villages in the surrounding area.

**In Rakhine and southern Chin**, the informal ceasefire agreement between the AA and the MAF continues to hold but remains very fragile. Since the pause in fighting, transportation of commodities and civilian movement has been restored along the main roads and rivers, although the road between Rathedaung and Ponnagyun is still closed, and checkpoints from both sides remain in place. Assistance is gradually resuming including in construction, transportation of relief items (including medicine and medical equipment), mobile clinics, nutrition, WASH, protection, education, food and CCCM activities. The conflict between August and November this year reportedly claimed the lives of more than 42 civilians, prompted the displacement of more than 23,000 people, and has inflicted severe hardship on civilians due to movement restrictions and roadblocks. More than 16,000 people remain displaced in Rakhine and Paletwa township in Chin due to this recent fighting, bringing the total number of IDPs from past and present AA-MAF conflict still displaced to more than 90,500, as of 19 December.

**In the Northwest**, fighting between the MAF and various PDFs involving airstrikes, mortar fire and ambushes, continues to raise protection and humanitarian concerns across Chin, Sagaing and Magway. Widespread destruction of houses during military raids has reportedly continued. In many areas across the Northwest, tightened security measures imposed by all parties continued to affect movements on roads and waterways. Security checks and roadblocks remained the main access impediment for local humanitarian partners, reducing their capacity to deliver humanitarian assistance. Severe bureaucratic and administrative restrictions, continued conflict, and threats against aid workers continued to hamper humanitarian operations. Several townships in Chin, Magway, and Sagaing continue to face internet blackouts.

The overall number of IDPs in the Northwest has increased in December 2022, particularly in Sagaing, with about 25,500 displaced people since early December. In parallel, about 20,000 people in Banmawk township returned to their villages of origin during the second half of November. As of 26 December, according to the latest UN figures about 795,600 people remain displaced across the Northwest by conflict and insecurity since the military takeover. This includes 47,200 IDPs in Chin; 124,400 IDPs in Magway; and 624,000 IDPs in Sagaing. Most of the displaced people continue to live in informal displacement sites with limited access to humanitarian assistance and services. They are increasingly vulnerable to hunger, illness and risks of human trafficking and exploitation. The estimated number of people who remain displaced in India from these areas stands at 49,800. As of 30 November, more than 31,900 houses are estimated to have been burnt down since the military takeover, the vast majority of which were recorded in Sagaing (25,508), presenting major obstacles to return in the short term.

**In northern Shan**, intense armed clashes between the MAF and various EAOs have been reported in Hsein, Kutkai, Kunlong and Namhsan townships since early December 2022. Consequently, about 1,750 people from several villages in Namhsan township fled their homes in the same township. In mid-December, around 750 people returned to their villages but more than 1,000 people remain displaced in a monastery. According to the latest UN figures, as of 26 December, approximately 17,300 people remain displaced in temporary displacement sites and protracted camps in northern Shan. Forced recruitment remains a major concern in northern Shan amid the volatile security situation. On 13 December, five young men from Nam Yay village of Hseni township were reportedly abducted and forcibly recruited by an EAO. Since the beginning of 2022, a total of 153 civilians have reportedly been abducted for forced recruitment in 9 townships across northern Shan, according to initial information.

**Across the Southeast**, armed conflict between the MAF and various armed groups continued unabated in almost all states and regions. In Kayah, fighting has continued between the MAF and the joint forces of the Karenni Nationalities Defence Force (KNDFs) and PDFs in several townships, including Bawlake, Demoso, Hpasawng, Hpruso and Loikaw

townships, since early December 2022. Consequently, about 4,000 people from 26 villages in Demoso township fled their homes to urban areas of Loikaw township and other safer locations in Demoso township in Kayah, as well as in Hsihseng, Pekon and Pinlaung townships in southern Shan. On 9 December, three civilians suffered injuries and several houses were reportedly damaged due to mortar fire in Daw Kha Yawt Khu village in Hpruso township. In southern Shan, there were no major armed clashes since early December 2022. However, partners and local sources reported that MAF's checkpoints have been preventing IDPs without identification documents from passing. In addition, random house searches have been reported at places where IDPs are hosted in Pinlaung township with pressure for IDPs to return to their places of origin if they cannot show documents, including visitor cards registered with a local de facto administrator. The de facto authorities have also restricted the movement of humanitarian partners into the area, hindering the delivery of necessary assistance.

In Kayin, Mon and eastern Bago, intense armed clashes between the MAF and the joint forces of the Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA) and PDFs have continued in Kawkareik, Kyainseikgyi and Myawaddy townships since early December 2022. Local media reported that more than 5,000 people from several villages in southern Kawkareik have been forced out, escaping airstrikes by moving from one location to another in the township. The MAF and their allied Border Guard Forces (BGFs) have reportedly blocked major roads between Kawkareik, Kyainseikgyi and Hpayarthonesu towns for weeks, preventing food, medicines and other relief items from reaching displaced people. On 7 December, a teacher and a student in a monastic school in Mougma village of Kawkareik township sustained injuries due to artillery fire. In Mon, 5,900 people from several villages were displaced within Bilin township due to insecurity and fears over airstrikes. In eastern Bago, armed clashes and airstrikes forced about 500 people to leave their villages and seek safety in the nearby jungle in Shwegyin township in December. In Tanintharyi, sporadic fighting between the MAF and local PDFs occurred in several townships. On 15 December, some 150 people from Dawei township were consequently displaced into forests in Bokeyyin and Dawei townships.

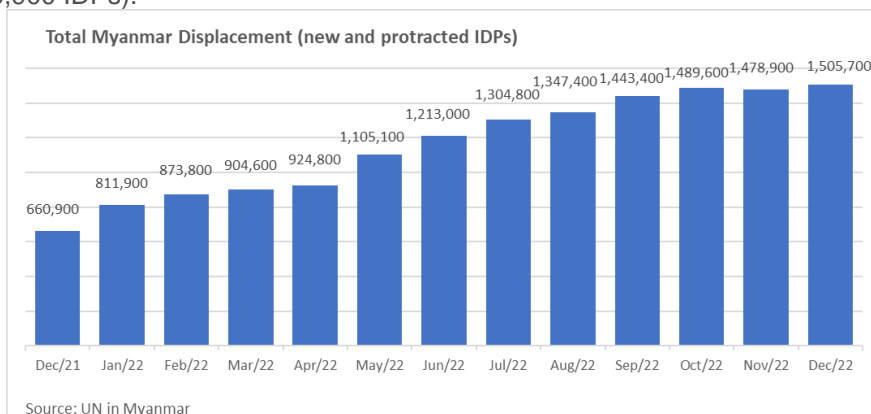
Overall displacement figures have slightly increased across the Southeast in December. According to the latest UN figures, as of 26 December, about 339,000 people remain displaced in collective centres and host communities in various townships across the Southeast as a result of conflict and insecurity since the military takeover. This includes 85,900 IDPs in Kayah; 91,700 IDPs in Kayin; 55,100 IDPs in southern Shan; 24,000 IDPs in Mon; 27,900 IDPs in Tanintharyi; and 54,400 IDPs in eastern Bago.

## Fleeing for their lives

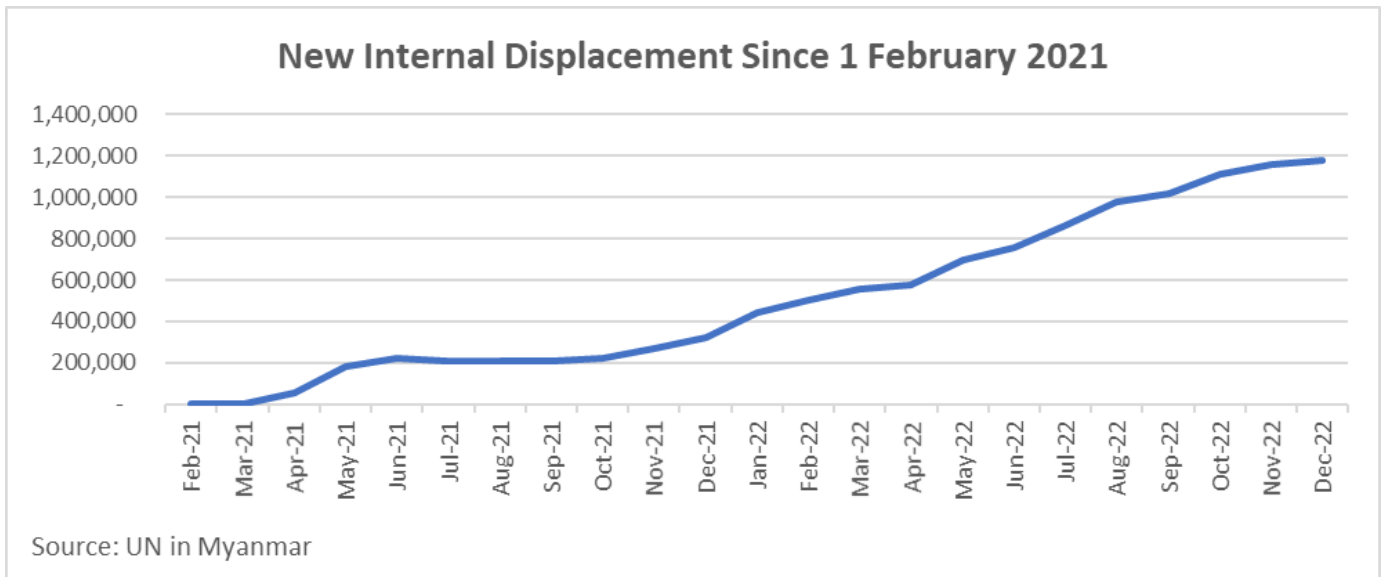
*“We no longer have a home for our family,” IDP Daw Than Than Nu<sup>4</sup>*

It has been nearly two years since Than Than Nu and her family were displaced from Kone Thar village near Demoso township in Kayah State. Her family is one of many who were displaced into southern Shan in May 2021 due to intense fighting between the MAF and EAOs and allied PDFs in Kayah that has included the use of airstrikes and heavy weapons. More than 400 houses in her village were reportedly burnt down – her house among them.

Since the 2021 military takeover, heavy conflict has forced entire communities to flee for their lives – many in new areas which were previously considered peaceful. The geographical and numerical expansion of displacement throughout 2022 has been on a scale not seen since Cyclone Nargis in 2008. As of 26 December, more than 1.5 million people remained displaced across the country, including about 330,400 people living in protracted displacement from previous conflicts, the majority of whom are in Rakhine State. This is more than double the total figure at the end of December 2021 (660,900 IDPs).



<sup>4</sup> Name changed



As conflict has spread to new corners of the country, the Northwest has shouldered the biggest displacement burden. Two of every three people displaced in Myanmar since the military takeover are in the Northwest. More than half are in Sagaing alone. The situation in Chin, Magway, and Sagaing is extremely volatile, with people displaced multiple times and living in isolated, remote, undignified conditions in informal sites in jungles and forests. The burning of civilian properties and the risk of explosive ordnance contamination has made it incredibly difficult for communities to return to their areas of origin.

In the Southeast, escalating conflict with use of airstrikes and heavy weapons in populated areas has resulted in a surge of new displacement, with more than 300,000 people remaining displaced in collective centers, the jungle, and host communities in townships across 6 regions and states due to continued fighting between the MAF and various EAOs and PDFs. Access to livelihoods, medical care and education is difficult and frequently impeded by movement restrictions imposed by the de facto authorities. Many IDPs are living in congested sites that are not suited to long-term shelter, such as monasteries where expansion is not possible.

In Kachin and Shan, the majority of people displaced in 2022 were unable to return to their villages of origin, although some are seeking transitional solutions. A limited number have moved to protracted sites, and most are currently residing with host communities or at collective centers, where the resources of host families and operational partners are overstretched.

In Rakhine and southern Chin, alongside 73,300 people living in protracted displacement due to conflict between the AA and MAF from 2018 to 2020, the August 2022 resumption of conflict displaced an additional 23,350 people, of whom a significant number have recently returned following a fragile ceasefire at the end of November. The majority of the remaining IDPs are staying in Mrauk-U, Kyauktaw, Paletwa, Ponnagayun and Sittwe townships.

An additional 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. This community (displaced and living in villages) continues to face significant barriers to the enjoyment of fundamental rights, including freedom of movement and access to citizenship, livelihoods, education, and healthcare, and non-displaced stateless people continue to be among the most vulnerable people in Myanmar as a result.

Against this nationwide backdrop displaced people are facing elevated safety risks due to indiscriminate attacks, arbitrary arrests and detention, persecution as a result of perceived affiliation with parties to the conflict, forced labour or recruitment, destruction or occupation of civilian infrastructure by parties to the conflict, and the risk of inter-communal tension as limited resources become depleted. In parallel, some IDPs fear pressure to return to unsafe areas of origin amid planned camp closures.

## Deepening IDP needs heading into 2023

“Before settling here, we first fled to the jungle and then moved from one place to another by foot,” shared Ma Zin Zin<sup>5</sup> another displaced woman from Kayah State who has been sheltering in a displacement site in Nyaugshwe township in southern Shan since May 2022. She and her family were forced to flee their hometown when airstrikes hit Loikaw. Due to ongoing fighting in Loikaw, Demoso and Shadaw townships in Kayah State since January 2022, more than half the population of Loikaw township has reportedly fled their homes in search of safety.<sup>6</sup>

**“As the situation is not stable yet back home, how can we feel safe living there? We would have to live amidst guns when we return,” Ma Zin Zin said.**

Displaced families want to return home, but most cannot. For many like Daw Than Than Nu and Ma Zin Zin, their areas of origin are still unsafe or uncondusive due to active conflict, explosive ordnance contamination and lack of livelihoods opportunities. Despite the clearly expressed wish of IDPs to stay where they are, and despite advocacy efforts with the de facto authorities at all levels on safe and voluntary returns, about 16,000 IDPs sheltering in some camps and displacement sites in Rakhine, Chin, and Shan are being pushed to soon return to their villages of origin. Many have no homes to return to due to the scale of property destruction in these parts of the country. An estimated 34,380 civilian properties have been burnt or destroyed since February 2021, although these numbers are difficult to verify in the current conditions.<sup>7</sup> Landmines and explosive remnants of war (ERW) are preventing many families from safely returning to their homes and villages and are interrupting agriculture. A staggering 40 per cent of IDP households said they had been affected by explosive ordnance in the last year.<sup>8</sup> According to the latest UNICEF figures, there were 333 casualties (247 people injured, 86 killed) reported in the first 10 months of 2022.<sup>9</sup> This has already far exceeded total incidents reported in 2021. Children represent nearly one-third of casualties from landmine/ERW explosions countrywide this year.

Even though Ma Zin Zin does not have to worry about food and shelter for now that her family is receiving assistance in the displacement site where they are staying, she says “there are many difficulties that remain for us such as receiving basic healthcare for [her] mother and education for [her] children. Many IDPs lack access to adequate food, shelter and essential services such as healthcare, education, water, and sanitation. IDPs and the CSOs working to support them say that food, medicine, and fuel are in short supply, sending prices soaring. They also report that food supplies of host communities are fast being depleted by the steady flow of people on the move and that their needs are now similar to those of IDPs themselves. Cash assistance immediately goes towards urgent needs like rice for IDPs’ next meal and they are struggling to regain financial stability during their flight. In a nationwide analysis of needs, more than half of IDPs reported that they are living in unsafe shelter types, and nearly one-third said they do not have access to water sources of sufficient quality.<sup>10</sup>

In Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) conducted in southern Shan, Kayah, Rakhine, and Kachin in October and November, IDPs reported they need medicine, tarpaulins, hygiene items, and cooking fuel sticks/charcoal. Moving into the colder months, they also need blankets, shoes, and warm clothes. These gaps are greatest in hard-to-reach, conflict-affected areas. Women, children, older people, and people with disabilities are especially vulnerable.

<sup>5</sup> Name changed.

<sup>6</sup> OCHA, [Escalation of conflict in the Southeast Flash Update, 13 January 2022](#)

<sup>7</sup> OCHA’s data on Sagaing/Magway/Chin (up to 30 November 2022), [Progressive Karenni People Force](#) on Kayah (up to 1 December 2022), [Data for Myanmar](#) in remaining states (up to 30 November 2022)

<sup>8</sup> Nationwide multi-sectoral needs analysis, 2022.

<sup>9</sup> [Myanmar Landmine/ERW Incidents Information Factsheet \(January-October 2022\)](#), UNICEF Myanmar. This report does not include explosions and casualties targeting local administrations and security forces across the country.

<sup>10</sup> Nationwide Multi-Sector Needs Analysis, 2022.

### Displaced communities express their need for ongoing assistance

Even when aid does not meet all their needs, the most vulnerable crisis-affected people have made it clear that they do not want this humanitarian support to stop – no matter how it gets to them. This is a common theme among FGDs conducted by both local and international partners in October and November across Myanmar. These less visible, but very vulnerable people who are receiving vital assistance continue to tell us that this help is a lifeline and that they are fearful of it being interrupted.

***“We thank the humanitarian organizations for helping and supporting us since we were displaced in 2012. We cannot be here without their support. Though we cannot live in the camp (prison-like setting) forever, we would like to request that humanitarian organizations help us to be able to return to our places of origin with freedom of movement and citizenship,”*** — FGDs in an IDP camp in Rakhine

***All the things that they [IDPs] received are helpful for the family’s needs...All are useful for the community and do not [go to] waste.*** — Notes from FGDs with IDPs in Demoso, Kayah

As part of humanitarian consultations, national NGOs and CSOs explained that most people understand the situation facing humanitarian organizations, including their funding challenges and often express concern the assistance might end. Feedback provided through various accountability platforms often includes requests for more aid, the re-instatement of aid that has stopped, or simply asks for assistance to continue.

***They [IDPs] requested to continue support[ing] humanitarian assistance as they are also aware of decreasing of funds in Kachin.*** – Notes from FGD with IDPs in Myitkyina, Kachin

***The communities would like to thank the humanitarian organizations for sympathetic [sic] and charity for the IDPs and the shelter kit...we beg you to support the humanitarian assistance continuously and may all your good deed and work be blessed.*** — Notes from FGDs with IDPs in Loikaw, southern Shan

Before her displacement Ma Zin Zin worked as a retailer while her husband worked as a farmer. Their journey to southern Shan was not easy. On their way, they rented a house in Aye Thar Yar in Taunggyi for three months, but, lacking jobs and income, they could not afford the accommodation for long and had to move to their current displacement site. Displacement means families are not only forced to leave their homes, but also their livelihood and sources of income. Livelihood opportunities are limited across conflict areas due to the overall security situation and landmine contamination. The lack of income, combined with inflation, has forced many displaced families to resort to negative coping mechanisms to survive. These include buying on credit, borrowing food and money, child labour, early marriage for girls, reducing food consumption, accepting low wage work, drug use, and requesting donations. There has been a significant increase in children and families resorting to negative coping mechanisms, putting children at even greater risk of abuse and exploitation.

The constant exposure to high-stress, conflict situations is taking a toll on the mental health and psychosocial well-being of IDPs. Education remains inaccessible for many, with nearly four million children out of school. During an inter-agency multi-sectoral distribution in southern Shan in October, some 80 per cent of IDP parents interviewed were distressed about the challenge of accessing education for their children, most of whom had been out of school for more than two years due to COVID and displacement. The unavailability of psychosocial support is adversely affecting children and their caregivers. The rise in insecurity and downward economic spiral, coupled with a lack of education and recreational and social activities in many areas of the country, has had severe consequences on children’s physical and mental health.

## Humanitarian assistance is a lifeline

Humanitarian partners, including local and national partners, UN agencies, and international NGOs continue to provide critical, lifesaving assistance to IDP and host communities wherever they can. In 2022, humanitarian partners in different places used a variety of modalities, both individually and through inter-agency missions, to reach a growing number of people with assistance despite access constraints. Advocacy efforts with relevant stakeholders at all levels

are ongoing to raise protection concerns and reach more displaced people in need. The humanitarian community saw fruits of this advocacy in 2022, by reaching record numbers of people in parts of the Northwest, Kachin, and the Southeast that had not been accessible since before the 2021 military takeover. By the end of the third quarter of 2022, humanitarians had reached more than 650,000 IDPs with support – exceeding original targets.



A displaced family collects relief items in Kalaw township, southern Shan during an inter-agency distribution mission in October 2022, © OCHA.

In early October 2022, for example, Daw Than Than Nu and Ma Zin Zin received relief items and hygiene kits from an inter-agency distribution mission to southern Shan. This mission successfully delivered various relief items, including hygiene kits, dignity kits and education in emergency kits for children, to more than 3,750 people (nearly 1,100 households) across 4 townships.

Local partners and communities continue to play a pivotal role in the response and are bridging conflict-affected people to the support they desperately need. As first responders who are deeply committed to their communities, local civil society and community-based organizations are an essential link in the humanitarian response chain.

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As first responders who are deeply committed to their

Host communities themselves are also showing their deep compassion by generously sharing their dwindling resources with new arrivals in need. Daw Than Than Nu shared that the host community where they are staying in southern Shan has been very welcoming and supportive, noting that “..the local people here are so helpful to us. They share with us food and everything we need. I will be forever grateful to them for the help and support they are giving to us because we wouldn’t survive without it.”

Daw Than Than Nu and her family dream of the conflict ending soon and as the year draws to a close, they wish for the chance to return to their village and have a permanent roof over their head once more. “If this [conflict] all ends, I want to have a house again,” Daw Than Than Nu said.

## HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

**Humanitarian Access:** In Rakhine, one month after the informal ceasefire agreement between the AA and the MAF was announced, most of the roads and waterways have reopened to civilian traffic. Starting from 20 December, the State de facto authorities approved access to the UN and INGOs to all areas of Pauktaw township and the urban area of Kyauktaw. The transportation of medicine, medical items, and other commodities between Yangon and Sittwe has also been re-allowed. Staff movement between central and northern Rakhine has also been approved. However, access to six restricted townships (Mrauk-U, Minbya, Myebon, Rathedaung, Buthidaung and Maungdaw) has been re-opened only for urban areas. As of 27 December, 11 organizations have secured travel authorization (TAs) to provide humanitarian assistance in Sittwe and Pauktaw townships while others are still waiting for approval.

Elsewhere in the country, movement restrictions and armed clashes continue to affect humanitarian access, including Magway, Sagaing, Chin, Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Tanintharyi, and eastern Bago. Several partner organizations have been forced to relocate their staff members, particularly in Sagaing, Kachin, northern Shan, Kayah and Kayin, to safer areas and to shift the planned activities to alternative locations.

In Kachin, humanitarian access remains problematic in and around Hpakant township, due to the increased presence of MAF checkpoints following the airstrike on 23 October, impacting partners’ ability to provide humanitarian assistance



to those displaced and residing in temporary around Hpakant town. No TAs have been issued by the de facto authorities in the Northwest (Chin, Sagaing, and Magway) since April 2021. Additionally, because of the frequent electricity and telecommunication cuts, humanitarian partners and crisis-affected people continue to have trouble accessing communications and internet services, particularly in several townships of Chin 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

- There is a need for professional development training and mental and psychosocial support for teachers working in IDP camps.
- Higher quality education support is 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 Kachin, there is a need for learning materials for children in 2 new displacement sites in Bhamo township and 5 displacement sites in Momauk township, where 248 displaced households (1,131 IDPs) are currently sheltering (multi-sectoral joint rapid assessment, November 2022).
- In Rakhine, the Education Cluster reports that the children in IDP camps in Kyaukpyu township do not have access to middle and high school to continue their education.

#### Response

- In the Southeast, cluster partners provided the following responses to people in need in November:
  - In Kayah, well-being training was organized for 15 teachers and 79 parents.
  - In Kayin, 3 vocational trainings (mobile phone repair, agriculture, and entrepreneurship) were conducted for 54 youth vocational trainees. Start-up grants were also provided to 30 young people who graduated from Computer ICT courses and 390 children in 6 locations who had dropped out of school and received home-based learning kits to start trainings provided by community-based facilitators.
- In Rakhine, the following responses were delivered in November:
  - Recreational activities for 96 boys were conducted in IDP camps.
  - Distribution of student kits to 359 students (158 boys and 201 girls) in grades 1-4 in Maw Tin Nyar Camp in Sittwe.
  - One partner finalized the enrolment of an additional 466 students (224 boys and 242 girls) in 2 IDP camps in November. These students will benefit from non-formal education activities and psychosocial support through the Better Learning Programme.
- In Shan, the following responses were undertaken in November:
  - Vocational training for 10 youth from the Pan Ku camp in Kutkai township.
  - Cluster partners conducted a training for members of to the Education Improvement Committee in Nay Won Ni IDP camp in Namhkan township.

#### Gaps & Challenges

- Across Myanmar, intense fighting, airstrikes and artillery fire have limited access to communities, causing delayed education service delivery, and making program implementation more expensive and difficult to execute.
- Supply chain disruptions, coupled with inflation, have increased the cost of fuel, transport, electricity, and other inputs, directly affecting project management, contingency planning and emergency education responses.
- The scope of Community Based Education (CBE) is being limited by lack of funding, human resources, and educational materials. CBE activities initiated by local people in and around conflict areas have not been provided with sufficient teaching and learning materials to adequately support displaced children.
- In central Rakhine, severe access restrictions have hindered the delivery of humanitarian aid and the replenishment of contingency stocks over recent months.

- Funding shortfalls for education activities remain a major challenge, particularly in Kachin and Rakhine. The Education Cluster continues to advocate for more funding to education-related activities, particularly for displaced children who have missed more than two years of schooling since the start of the pandemic.

## Food Security

### Needs

- Women and girls are being disproportionately affected by the multiple crises in Myanmar. According to the fourth round of the FAO/WFP food security and livelihoods assessment conducted in August and September 2022, female-headed households are more reliant on negative coping mechanisms than their male counterparts:
  - Borrowing food is more common among female-headed households than male-headed households (21 per cent vs. 16 per cent).
  - More female-headed households reported limiting portion sizes in the week prior to the data collection than male-headed households (19 per cent vs. 15 per cent).
  - More female-headed households had been forced to sell household assets than male-headed households (51 per cent vs. 43 per cent)
  - More female-headed households were relying on their savings to meet their food needs in the month prior to the data collection than male-headed households (76 per cent vs. 69 per cent)
- Inflation continues across Myanmar. The cost of a typical food basket in August 2022 was 24 per cent higher compared to 3 months earlier, 58 per cent higher than in 2021, and 67 per cent higher than in 2020.

### Response

- Food distribution remains the main focus for Cluster partners, but organizations are working to diversify the assistance received by people in need. With active coordination across the Cluster, the number of people who were reached with two different food security activities in the same location increased by 21 per cent between the 2nd and 3rd quarter of 2022 (from 1,108,197 to 1,398,368 people).
- The breadth of assistance is also increasing. The number of people reached by 2 Food Security Cluster partners at the same site also increased by 30 per cent (from 845,466 people in Q2 to 1,200,131 in Q3).<sup>11</sup> The number of locations with two partners operating has increased in all the identified priority states and regions, except Tanintharyi, Ayeyarwady, and Bago. These improvements make the Food Security Cluster's interventions deeper and more impactful.
- Food Security Cluster partners continue to expand their geographical coverage, reaching 18 new townships in hard-to-reach areas of Magway and northern and southern Shan, along with Mandalay and Ayeyarwady. Currently, a total of 14 partners have a presence in more than 5 townships (an increase from 13 partners in Q2), and 11 partners are present in more than 10 townships (an increase from 8 partners in Q2). These improvements are largely reflective of strategic changes by partners as donor funds are now being prioritized for hard-to-reach areas.

### Gaps & Challenges

- Despite significant efforts since the beginning of 2022 to expand food security support in hard-to-reach areas, 67 conflict-affected townships in Chin, Magway, Sagaing, Kayah and Tanintharyi remain out of reach. The Cluster will continue supporting these areas through evidence-based food security analysis and guidance to local partners on the ground.

## Health

### Needs

- Due to increasing armed conflict, improved availability of mobile clinics for IDPs at new displacement sites is urgently needed.
- Basic medicines for cold, influenza, diarrhoea, fever, and cough, as well as drug supplies to control non-communicable diseases (NCDs), such as hypertension and diabetes are needed. The need for NCD medicines, to address hypertension in particular, has increased in southern Shan and Kayah.
- Nationwide, capacity building for community health workers and support for midwives are both crucial to providing necessary healthcare in communities amid the ongoing humanitarian crisis.

### Response

- In Kachin, Health Cluster partners undertook the following activities in November:

<sup>11</sup> These data are cumulative since January 2022 and highlight the change in FS programming

- 2,164 consultations were provided to communities in 21 locations, including hard-to-reach displacement and resettlement sites across 5 townships.
- 100 women's dignity and clean delivery kits were distributed in Bhamo township.
- 100 people in Jaw Ma Sat IDP camp received a food safety education session in response to incidents of food poisoning.
- In northern Shan, health partners undertook the following activities in November:
  - 9 mobile clinics provided 1,980 consultations in 33 IDP sites and communities in 23 villages across 6 townships.
  - Emergency referrals for further assistance were made for 3 people from villages in Hsipaw township and 10 IDPs at new displacement sites in Lashio, Hsipaw and Kyaukme townships.
  - UNICEF provided 32,000 surgical masks and oral rehydration salts in 8 protracted camps in Hseni, Kutkai, Namhkan and Namtu townships.
  - A partner continues to provide primary health care services in seven camps in Kutkai township and three camps in Namtu township.
- In Kayin, health partners provided the following services in November:
  - Primary healthcare services to 371 people through 15 mobile clinic sessions in Hlaingbwe township.
  - Primary healthcare services to 217 people through 6 mobile clinic sessions in Thandaunggyi township.
  - Emergency obstetric care and referral support to 20 pregnant women in Hlaingbwe township and 16 pregnant women in Hpa-An.
- In eastern Bago, 140 women (IDPs and host community) received sexual and reproductive healthcare services through mobile clinics and fixed clinics in Taungoo.

### Gaps & Challenges

- Implementing healthcare services in conflict areas continues to be challenging because of frequent and scattered armed clashes, numerous checkpoints, transportation difficulties, the risk of explosive ordnance and movement restrictions.
- In most of the areas in Kachin, funding gaps, transportation and security issues are very challenging for partners.
- In northern Shan, difficulties recruiting healthcare workers, including doctors and nurses, have delayed the opening of new mobile clinics in IDP sites in Tangyan township.
- A local partner's adolescent sexual and reproductive health activities in Muse township, northern Shan will be paused in 2023 due to funding limitations.
- In Rakhine, the transportation of medicines and other essential supplies, especially between Paletwa and Kyauktaw townships, as well as from Yangon has been challenging over the reporting period.
- 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, have been posing ongoing challenges and are likely to continue for commodities moving into January 2023. The potential delays in securing timely clearance could 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 of stock to areas facing imminent stock-outs/stock shortages for a longer duration at service points, and emergency procurement through partners, among other avenues.

## 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.
- In Sagaing and Chin, there is 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 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 responses were undertaken in November:
  - One partner assisted 485 severe acute malnutrition (SAM) children (22 per cent of all identified cases) in Buthidaung township in northern Rakhine.
  - Nutrition supplies, including 776 cartons of RUTF, 160 pieces of Micronutrient Powder supply, 40 Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) flip charts and 60 nutrition bowls, were provided to 3 agencies

who are working in IDP camps and hard-to-reach areas in Sittwe, Pauktaw, Buthidaung, and Maungdaw.

- In the Northwest, Cluster partners continued to provide screening and referral services to children suffering from SAM and MAM in Falam and Tedim townships in Sagaing, and in Paletwa township in Chin.
- In the Southeast, the following responses were undertaken in November:
  - UNICEF provided a 2-month ration of 112 cartoons of RUTF to an INGO to treat 280 MAM children in Hpa Pun township of Kayin.
  - UNICEF continued distributing medical nutrition therapy (MNT) through an INGO in Demoso township of Kayah.
  - Partners conducted MUAC screening for 83 children under 5 years at Kyay Ka Taw village in Thandaunggyi township in Kayin and Saw Htee Thaw Church (IDP site) in eastern Bago.

### Gaps & Challenges

- TAs remain a gap despite the informal ceasefire agreement between the AA and the MAF in Rakhine.
- In Rakhine, the suspension of Integrated Nutrition Centers and restriction of mobile clinic movement to villages has meant implementing partners could not admit new malnourished cases and some community-based activities have had to stop, mainly in the northern townships of Rakhine.
- In Kachin, nutrition services are not possible in Momauk and Hpakant townships due ongoing fighting.
- In the Northwest, UNICEF is facing challenges in transporting nutrition supplies to all townships in Chin and Sagaing.
- Several implementing partners have postponed response activities in Kanpetlet and Mindat townships in Chin.
- In the Southeast, partners continue to face challenges in conducting regular nutrition monitoring visits, and collecting accurate nutrition data from affected people due to fighting, movement restrictions, unstable internet and telecommunication services, and poor road conditions after the rainy season. The high cost of transport due to inflation continues to negatively affect the delivery of essential nutrition services and supplies within and between townships.

## Protection

### Needs

- Landmines and explosive remnants of war (ERW) continue to pose a threat to the life and safety of civilians in Myanmar. Due to worsening conflict, improved assistance to the increasing number of explosive ordnance (EO) victims is urgently needed.
- Lawyers providing legal aid continue to face risks as they try to attend court in Myawaddy and Kawkaik in the Southeast. Aid worker safety is also a concern, especially due to frequent fighting near Myawaddy township.
- In Rakhine, the following needs and concerns have been identified in November and early December 2022:
  - In Rakhine, IDPs in the restricted townships of Buthidaung, Maungdaw, Rathedaung, Mrauk-U, Minbya, Myebon, Pauktaw and Kyauktaw remain in dire need of humanitarian assistance. In addition, there is an urgent need for mine action activities, including clearance and explosive ordnance risk education (EORE), especially in townships where there has been heavy recent fighting such as Ponnagyun, Minbya, Kyauktaw, and Myebon.
  - There is concern that the informal ceasefire between the AA and the MAF will lead to increased immediate pressure on IDPs to return to their villages of origin without assurances of their safety and security. Monitoring exercises conducted in two camps in Sittwe in early December 2022 highlighted the need for continued advocacy for citizenship documentation, freedom of movement and integrated services for the Rohingya population to protect them from further abuse and discrimination.
  - Camp closure and relocation plans pose particular protection risks to the Rohingya population. The de facto authorities in Kyaukpyu township continue to push for IDPs in Kyauk Ta Lone IDP camp to move to the relocation site which is exposed to flooding in the wet season.
- In Kachin and northern Shan, people report they have limited access to livelihoods due to the presence of armed groups and possible landmine contamination, restrictions on movement, searches, scrutiny at checkpoints, and active conflict. In Momauk, some farmers are unable to harvest due to ongoing clashes near agricultural areas.
- In northern Shan, the following needs and concerns have been identified:
  - Forced recruitment and extortion by EAOs remain a major concern, particularly in Kokang and Wa areas in northern Shan, as these expose people to other protection risks, and force them to adopt negative coping mechanisms, such as engaging in illegal business or being trafficked to find the money they need to survive, pay extortion demands or avoid recruitment.

- Temporarily displaced households in Hsipaw and Mongmit townships reported that their access to livelihoods is extremely restricted due to the increased presence of armed actors and landmines.
- In the Southeast, arbitrary arrest and detention, destruction of civilian property, trafficking, and civilian casualties due to indiscriminate shelling and airstrikes remain the main risks. These require sustained initiatives for prevention and response.
- In the Northwest, there is a need for increased child protection, GBV, mine action and general protection activities, particularly in conflict-affected, hard-to-reach areas. There is also a need for specialized psychosocial support services for IDPs across the Northwest.

## Response

- Protection partners continue to monitor protection violations with the aim of obtaining real-time understanding of the situation to better inform advocacy and operational responses.
- In central Rakhine, 72,947 people were reached in the last quarter of 2022 with services ranging from GBV, to protection, child protection, MHPSS and mine action.
- In the Southeast, the following responses were undertaken in November:
  - Cash assistance was provided to 56 people with special needs in southern Shan. A training on AAP was conducted to 22 aid workers, while training on leadership and facilitation was conducted for 38 IDPs (11 males, 27 females) in Shan.
  - 200 dignity kits were distributed to IDPs in Thanbyzayat and Mudon townships in Mon.
  - UNHCR partners introduced community-based child protection programming and provided humanitarian aid to IDPs in 10 villages in Nyaungshwe township in southern Shan and a local partner provided MHPSS in Nyaungshwe, Pinlaung, Pekon, Hsihseng and Taunggyi townships in southern Shan in November.
  - 3,839 women benefited from a '*Women's empowerment in community feeding*' program in Taunggyi, Hsihseng, Nyaungshwe and Hopong townships in Shan.
  - A child protection actor provided winter kits to 36 children in southern Shan.
  - Awareness-raising sessions on child protection messages, prevention of family separation, EORE and GBV risk mitigation reached 781 (164 male, 617 female) children, parents, and caregivers in Mon and Kayin, and 675 child protection emergency kits were distributed to 2,025 children and adolescents in IDP sites across these states.
  - More than 1,400 children and adolescents have engaged in various recreational activities and MHPSS sessions through child friendly spaces in Kayin and Mon.
  - As part of the 16 Days of activism against GBV, awareness sessions and activities, including GBV prevention and risk mitigation activities, were organized for GBVWG members in Kayah, southern Shan, and Kayin.
  - More than 260 community members (including young girls) received GBV awareness sessions in IDP sites in Myawaddy and Thandaunggyi townships. IDP communities received PSEA-related information. Communities and IDPs in Mon and Kayin received GBV awareness sessions and social media campaigns. Partners also provided GBV support packages and sexual and reproductive health services in Hpa-An and Thandaunggyi townships in Kayin.
  - 200 dignity kits were distributed through partners in hard-to-reach areas in Shan.
  - 72 children, including some who are displaced, in Mon, Kayin, Tanintharyi and eastern Bago, who experienced physical abuse, sexual abuse, neglect, or were separated, received legal aid services and were referred for other specialized treatment.
  - In Kayin, 728 people (311 boys, 325 girls, 31 males and 144 females) received EORE sessions through UNICEF's implementing partners in targeted communities and schools in EAO areas, IDP camps, and host communities.
  - In October, 54 EORE sessions reached 2,262 IDPs in-person in Hpruso. In November, EORE sessions were also conducted in wards/villages in Taunggyi and Hsihseng in Shan.
  - UNICEF and its partners provided support to 11 children under 18 years old who were injured by landmines.

## Gaps & Challenges

- Access remains a huge challenge in the Southeast due to the severe security situation. Many activities and field missions were postponed or cancelled due to checkpoints and roadblocks; unpredictable armed clashes and difficulties in obtaining access to provide assistance. This is in addition to security threats and landmine accidents that continue to affect humanitarian workers. Partners reported difficulties in reaching and assisting IDPs in the jungle and remote informal settlements. EORE awareness is essential for all partners and affected people in the Southeast, but access constraints are limiting these activities.

- Humanitarians are concerned about the potential impacts of the new NGO registration law on life-saving protection activities.
- In Rakhine, Organizations continue to experience challenges accessing the affected population.
- In Kachin, restrictions have reported been introduced on the transportation of goods including medicines, medical supplies and fuel into Hpakant township, leading to drastic increases in fuel prices. In Hpakant, organizations attempting to help the victims from the 23 October airstrike were prevented from passing through the MAF checkpoints.
- 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.

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

### Needs

- In Rakhine, the vast majority of the people newly displaced by the recent AA-MAF conflict need shelter and NFI assistance. In addition, 400 longhouses that shelter Rohingya and Kaman IDPs in camps in Rakhine need reconstruction, representing a \$3.3 million funding gap, with a direct impact on the lives of more than 17,000 IDPs.
- Community leaders will have to close some collective centers in Mindat in Chin due to limited resources being available to support IDPs staying there. One center supporting 133 IDPs was already closed in November 2022. In Magway, urgent shelter needs for 74 households (124 people) have been reported in Pakokku township.
- In Kachin, the following needs were identified in November:
  - In Hpa-An township, 48 IDPs originally from Kawkareik township need basic relief items, such as sleeping mats, mosquito nets, kitchen sets, dignity kits and NFI kits (Rapid Protection Assessment, November 2022).
  - Based on multi-sectoral joint monitoring on 16 November, 248 displaced households in IDP sites in Bhamo and Momauk townships need health services, school kits, firewood, dignity kits, lights, winter kits, and WASH support. These IDPs are among the 412 households (1,802 people) who are displaced in 13 different sites and with host communities in Bhamo and Momauk townships.

### Response

- In central Rakhine, the following responses were undertaken in November 2022:
  - 15 longhouses were reconstructed, providing safe living conditions for approximately 660 IDPs in Rohingya and Kaman camps.
  - In the pre-existing AA-MAF displacement sites, partners provided NFI kit replenishments to more than 4,000 protracted IDPs primarily in Sittwe township.
  - NFI kits were distributed to 300 newly arrived people in Sittwe and Minbya townships.
  - Partners assisted about 200 newly arrived IDPs with shelter kits in Kyauktaw township.
- In the Northwest, the following responses were undertaken:
  - Cluster partners provided cash assistance to 360 households who lost their homes in Kale township in Sagaing in November.
  - One partner has been distributing 2,000 winter kits in Chin and NFIs for 200 households in Magway since early December.
- In eastern Bago, southern Shan and Kayin, one partner distributed NFIs to 2,300 households (more than 10,000 people) in November. These included:
  - 568 households (2,450 people) in Htantabin and Taungoo townships in eastern Bago.
  - 30 households (131 people) in Pekon township in southern Shan.
  - 1,725 households (7,432 people) in Myawaddy and Thandaunggyi townships in Kayin.
  - Another partner provided emergency shelter kits to 810 households in Kawkareik and Kyainseikgyi townships in Kayin in November.
  - UNHCR and its implementing partners distributed 1,600 roofing sheets and 1,000 kilograms of roofing nails for Karen High School in Htantabin township in eastern Bago. This will benefit 1,298 students, including 701 IDP students.
- In northern Shan, UNHCR is providing roofing sheets to support IDPs who are moving from Kyu Sot and Lisu camps in Namtu townships to new relocation sites.

### Gaps & Challenges

- Speculative land sales within Rohingya and Kaman camps in central Rakhine continue to threaten humanitarian space and infrastructure, impeding potential options and strategies for durable solutions. Multi-sectoral coordination and advocacy is underway to address this issue.

- Although key transport routes in Rakhine were re-opened to the general public following the informal ceasefire agreement, the de facto authorities have been slow to issue TAs for humanitarian movements.
- The lack of access remains one of the key challenges in the Northwest.
- Ongoing fighting, heavy military presence, access constraints, landmines and ERWs, and safety and security risks, including for humanitarian workers, continue to impede planned responses across the Southeast. For instance, a planned NFI distribution in Kyaukkyi township, through a local partner, was cancelled as approval was not granted due to intensified fighting in the area. Access to IDPs throughout Kayin is limited, including to areas that were accessible, such as Myaing Gyi Ngu area in Hlaingbwe township, Kamarmaung town in Hpapun township and Thandaunggyi township, due to MAF reinforcements in the area, roadblocks and ongoing intensified fighting.
- In Kachin and northern Shan, there is a gap in shelter support for 6,842 shelter units, which would cost around \$8 million to cover. In Kachin, there is a significant gap in information on current needs of and responses for IDPs displaced in Tamakhan village in Hpakant township.

## Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

### Needs

- In Rakhine, 12 per cent of 113 AA-MAF displacement sites still lack sufficient water; 35 per cent remain without appropriate sanitation; and 64 per cent still have hygiene gaps (Cluster 3W analysis, November 2022).
- In Kachin, the following needs were identified in November 2022:
  - 8,848 newly displaced people in 9 townships (Bhamo, Hpakant, Mogaung, Mohnyin, Momauk, Myitkyina, Puta-O, Shwegu and Waingmaw) need water, hygiene kits and emergency sanitation facilities.
  - Although a local partner is covering basic WASH needs in 12 camps (for 3,726 IDPs) in Bhamo, Momauk, Mansi and Shwegu townships through until March 2023, gaps in and needs for some WASH activities, including water pump running costs, water quality testing and desludging are still being reported.
- In northern Shan, one partner started constructing 2 waste disposal containers and 1,500-gallon capacity water storage tanks in Lisu camp in Tangyan township and Pong Mun protracted camp in Lashio township, while providing hygiene kits to host communities in Lashio township in December.
- In the Northwest, 73 per cent of the 655 displacement sites that are covered by WASH partners still lack appropriate sanitation services, and 85 per cent of them reported having hygiene gaps in October 2022 due to current funding and access constraints (Cluster 3W analysis, November 2022).
- In the Southeast, priority needs are water purification and hygiene items, food, medicine and warm clothes for displaced people.

### Response

- In Rakhine, WASH partners organized 251 hygiene promotion sessions and provided critical WASH supplies to 85 of the 113 pre-existing AA-MAF displacement sites in 8 townships, reaching 32,517 IDPs in November. These supplies included 452 jerrycans, 2,836 hygiene kits, more than 5,100 bars of soap, and about 5,000 sanitary pads for women and girls.
- In Kachin, the following WASH responses were undertaken in November 2022:
  - A total of 23 schools (2,700 students) in Injangyang and Sumprabum townships had urinal pans, handwashing basins, and latrine water storage tanks installed. They also received cleaning tool kits, bars of soap and drinking water bottles. In addition, 23 teachers had a hygiene promotion training session.
  - A total of 2,506 IDPs across Injangyang township received basic hygiene kits and hygiene promotion sessions.
  - The Burma Yang Camp (540 IDPs) in Injangyang township received 48 latrines, 6 bathing places, 108 hygiene kits, as well as water quality testing and one new gravity flow water supply system.
  - The KBC Camp (1,772 IDPs) in Momauk township received support for fuel costs and to cover the electricity bill for water pumping.
- In northern Shan, WASH partners distributed emergency hygiene kits and dignity kits to 190 households (574 people) in 2 monasteries in Hsipaw township on 26 November. These IDPs were displaced from Kone Hsar village due to armed clashes in mid-November.
- In southern Shan, 700 households (3,500 IDPs) in Hopong township received 700 hygiene kits, 700 water containers (10L and 20L) and 2,500 bars of soap in November.
- In the Northwest, WASH partners distributed 171 water pumps and fan blades, 66 jerrycans and water buckets, 868 hygiene kits, more than 6,800 bars of soap and more than 9,150 sanitary pads in November reaching:
  - 39,062 IDPs in 228 of the 333 displacement sites across 7 townships in Chin.

- 3,519 IDPs in 21 of the 52 displacement sites across 2 townships in Magway.
- 88,694 IDPs in 128 of the 312 displacement sites across 12 townships in Sagaing.

### Gaps & Challenges

- Due to a lack of funding, protracted IDP camps and new displacement sites across Myanmar will face increasing gaps and constraints with no money available to cover water pumping, desludging services and other vital WASH responses in 2023.
- In Rakhine, access constraints and expired MoUs of WASH partners continue to impede the granting of TAs and the delivery of humanitarian items. This has also prevented the transportation of NFIs and WASH supplies, construction activities and staff travel to target locations throughout the state.
- Travel restrictions continue to impede humanitarian assistance being delivered in Manton, Namhsan, Namtu, Muse (Monekoe town), Laukkaing and Kongyan townships and at the border area of southern Shan and Kayah.
- In southern Shan and Kayah, WASH responses to affected people are challenged by limited access, blockage of routes and insecurity.

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