

HIGHLIGHTS

- 450 displaced people in need of housing after major fire in Kachin camp
- Humanitarian Response Plan for 2015 targets over 500,000 people for assistance
- Government strengthens disaster preparedness with new Emergency Operations Centre
- Humanitarian appeal for 2014 was 59% funded

Key FIGURES

People displaced in
Rakhine State 139,000

People displaced in
Kachin and northern Shan
states 98,000

People displaced in
Meiktila, Mandalay
region 3,300

FUNDING

192 million
requested (US\$)

59% funded

Source: UNHCR, OCHA, CCCM,
Mandalay Regional Government



Girl in Aung Mingalar Quarter, Sittwe, June 2014 Credit: OCHA

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Fire destroys 88 shelters in IDP camp, Kachin

On 29 December a fire broke out in Shing Jai camp in Waingmaw Township in Kachin, reportedly due to an electrical fault. Some 450 people from 88 households were affected by the fire and lost their housing and other belongings. This is almost half of the families who live in Shing Jai camp.

Those who lost their shelters are currently living with other families in the remaining shelters or in common areas in the camp. As it is winter time, there is an urgent need for new shelters.

Responding to the needs of those affected by the fire

In the days immediately following the incident, local and international humanitarian organizations, as well as the Kachin State Government provided assistance. This included winter clothing and winter kits (blankets, tarpaulins, mosquito nets, and sleeping mats), as well as hygiene, sanitary and family kits distributed by the Myanmar Red Cross and the Government's Relief and Resettlement Department. Initial food assistance (rice, pulses) was provided by the Border Guard Force in the area, however further food assistance is needed. UNHCR also dispatched emergency tents and thermal blankets from its stocks in Yangon for the affected families.

The fire also destroyed a health clinic in the camp, as well as medicine stocks. Humanitarian organizations are in the process of replacing stocks. There will also be a need to construct new latrines and bathing facilities as some structures were damaged in the fire. More tools and equipment are also needed for home gardening as affected families lost these in the fire. The local school outside the camp, which 83 primary school children from Shing Jai attend, was unaffected by the fire.



A fire destroyed 88 shelters in Shing Jai camp, Kachin, 29 December. Credit: OCHA

Over 500,000 people in need of humanitarian assistance in 2015

In 2015, \$190 million is needed to provide humanitarian assistance to over 500,000 people in Rakhine, Kachin and northern Shan states.

\$190 million needed to provide humanitarian assistance in 2015

As part of the Myanmar Humanitarian Response Plan for 2015, the UN and its humanitarian partners are asking for \$190 million to assist 536,400 vulnerable people in Rakhine, Kachin and northern Shan states. This includes some 240,000 people who remain displaced in these three states. These are people who were displaced as a result of the armed conflict that re-started in Kachin in 2011 and the inter-communal violence that erupted in Rakhine in 2012. Local communities in these areas also continue to be severely affected by the ongoing crises in these states, and many of them are also still in need of humanitarian assistance.

Need for protection services and livelihoods support

Working with the Government of Myanmar, the UN and NGO partners will be working to ensure that all crisis-affected people in the country receive the assistance and protection they need, irrespective of their ethnicity, nationality, religion or gender, in accordance with humanitarian principles. This includes providing critical food and nutrition assistance, strengthening protection monitoring and services for vulnerable people, ensuring equitable access to education opportunities, providing water/sanitation/hygiene services, ensuring that displaced people have adequate shelter, improving access to life-saving healthcare and ensuring that they also have access to livelihoods opportunities, training and other services.



Boy at school in Je Yang IDP camp, Laiza, Kachin, February 2014. Credit: OCHA

After more than two years of displacement in Rakhine and over three years in Kachin, shelters and other facilities that were not built for long-term use are in need of repairs, maintenance or replacement. Latrines, bathing facilities and water points also need to be maintained or upgraded to ensure people have access to safe drinking water, basic services, and that hygiene standards are met.

Working to ensure that all crisis-affected people receive the assistance and protection they need, irrespective of their ethnicity, nationality, religion or gender

2015 response plan part of broader UN engagement in Myanmar

The 2015 Humanitarian Response Plan is one component of a broader engagement by the United Nations and the international community in Myanmar that includes a wide range of peace-building, recovery and longer-term development activities.

The response plan emphasizes the need to focus on gender, identifying and responding to the different experiences, needs, abilities and priorities of women, girls, boys and men affected by crisis. It highlights the importance of integrating conflict-sensitive approaches into all humanitarian programming. It also outlines the need to enhance accountability to affected populations, seeking the views of affected people and enabling them to play an active role in decision-making processes that affect them.

The response plan takes account of broader, longer-term development needs of all communities and seeks to ensure that humanitarian action links up effectively with wider development efforts. As Myanmar is one of the most disaster prone countries in the South East Asia region, enhancing the resilience of communities to conflict and natural disasters, and contributing to early recovery and durable solutions for displaced people, are strategic priorities for 2015.

Strengthening disaster preparedness

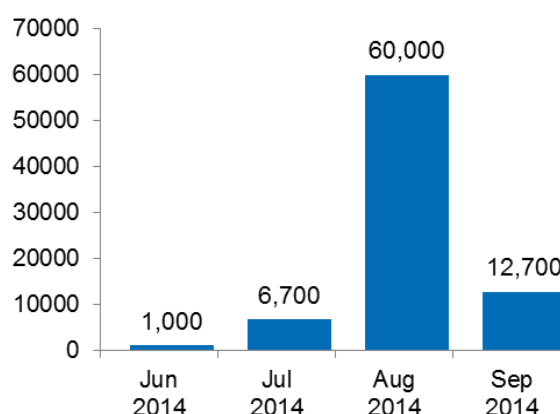
Government opens Emergency Operations Centre in Nay Pyi Taw

During the first week of December, the Myanmar Government hosted a five-day workshop in Nay Pyi Taw to further define the role and scope of its Emergency Operations Centre (EOC). The EOC will have equipment, staff and disaster management systems to support emergency response operations in Myanmar, including coordination of information and resources.

The government has approved funds to start building the Emergency Operations Centre and staffing it in 2015.

The government has approved funds to start building and staffing the EOC in 2015. The EOC is connected with the Asean Coordination Centre for Humanitarian Assistance (AHA), based in Jakarta, Indonesia, and initially is focused on monitoring weather events. The United States Aid and International Development Agency, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, and the Japan International Cooperation Agency have supported the government's Relief and Resettlement Department in developing and setting up the EOC to ensure that the international humanitarian response system is appropriately aligned with the government's response system. Recommendations from the workshop included defining coordination mechanisms between the Myanmar disaster management system and international humanitarian agencies.

People affected by natural disasters June – September 2014



Seasonal floods affect tens of thousands throughout Myanmar in 2014

Recurrent seasonal floods, strong winds, landslides and other natural disasters demonstrate the importance of strengthening disaster preparedness measures, and for enhancing cooperation between national and international responders. In 2014, tens of thousands of people were again affected by seasonal floods, landslides and other natural disasters during the rainy season from June to September, according to the Myanmar Government's Relief and Resettlement Department (RRD).

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In June, approximately 1,000 people were affected as river banks collapsed in Magway and Ayeyarwady. In July, some 5,700 people were affected by floods, strong winds and tornados across several regions. August saw the highest number of people affected by floods and severe weather conditions, with some 60,000 people affected primarily by heavy rains and floods across eight states and regions, according to RRD. This figure is significantly higher than the 36,000 people initially reported in the September issue of the Humanitarian Bulletin. The increase is primarily due to figures for a number of regions not yet being available at the time of reporting. In September, some 12,700 people were affected by floods across seven states and regions.

In most cases, people who were displaced by floods were able to return home within a few days, with local government authorities and the Myanmar Red Cross Society providing assistance.

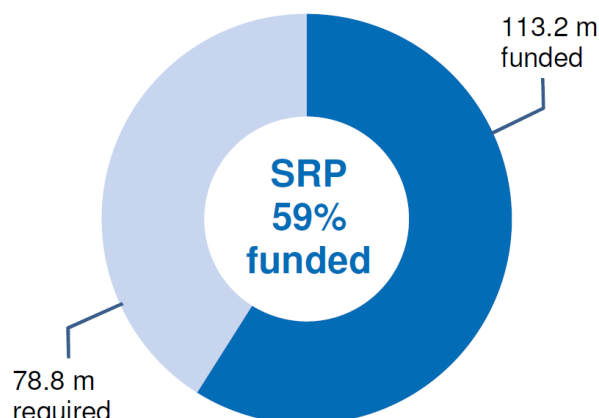
Humanitarian funding in 2014

The UN's Central Emergency Response Fund provided \$5.5 million to Myanmar in 2014.

At the end of December 2014, Myanmar had received US\$113.2 million, or 59 per cent, of the \$192 million requested for implementation of the UN and Partners **2014 Strategic Response Plan**.

In addition, according to the UN's Financial Tracking Service, another \$51.7 million had been provided to humanitarian programmes in Myanmar, but not all of this was for activities covered by the 2014 Strategic Response Plan. Funding went towards life-saving food, shelter, water, sanitation and hygiene

activities, as well as emergency health, education and protection services for women, girls, boys and men in Rakhine, Kachin and northern Shan states.



Of the total \$163.5 million provided by donors for humanitarian action in Myanmar during 2014, the ten largest donors were ECHO, the United States, the United Kingdom, Japan, Australia, Germany, Sweden, Switzerland, the UN Central Emergency Response Fund, and Denmark.

UN Central Emergency Response Fund and Emergency Response Fund allocations

During 2014, the UN's Central Emergency Response Fund provided \$5.5 million to Myanmar. The allocation supported the most urgent humanitarian needs in food, shelter, water, sanitation and hygiene, education, nutrition, health, early recovery (agriculture), and protection.

In addition to this, the UN's country-based Emergency Response Fund (ERF) awarded \$3.1 million to ten projects during the year to local and international NGOs to support the crisis-affected populations in Rakhine, Kachin and northern Shan. The ERF-funded humanitarian projects supported critical water, sanitation and health activities in Rakhine, and protection services, education, health, and water and sanitation activities in Kachin and northern Shan. ERF projects targeted more than 192,000 people in total.

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Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) and Emergency Response Fund (ERF) 2014

