

HIGHLIGHTS

- Communities struggle to recover from worst flooding in decades
- Hundreds of thousands helped by local response and recovery efforts
- 11,000 people remain in flood evacuation sites in Chin and Sagaing
- Floods response and recovery continues in Rakhine; one of the worst hit areas
- Limited humanitarian access to conflict affected civilians in Sumprabum, Kachin
- Up to 6,000 displaced by fighting in Southern Shan
- Most of the displaced have returned to Kokang

FIGURES

People displaced in Rakhine State > 130,000

People displaced in Kachin and northern Shan states > 100,000

FUNDING

\$190 million

requested for the 2015 Humanitarian Response Plan (US\$)

44% funded (\$83.7 million)

Myanmar Revised Floods Response Plan requests \$67.5 million

55% funded (\$37.3 million)



A young girl in a Kale flood evacuation site, Sept. 2015. Credit: OCHA

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Relief and recovery efforts continue following the worst flooding in decades

Floods and landslides kill 172, affect 9 million and temporarily displace 1.7 million

On 30 July, Cyclone Komen made landfall in Bangladesh, bringing strong winds and heavy rains to Myanmar and resulting in severe and widespread flooding that affected over 9 million people across 12 of the country's 14 states and regions. This followed heaving flooding in some parts of the country over the previous month. On 31 July, the President declared Chin and Rakhine states, and Magway and Sagaing regions as natural disaster zones. According to the Emergency Operations Centre, 172 people were killed between June and October and over 1.7 million were temporarily displaced.

From the beginning, affected communities demonstrated remarkable resilience, returning quickly to their areas of origin to start rebuilding their lives as soon as the flood waters receded. There was a huge outpouring of generosity from local communities in the affected areas and beyond, supported by an extremely active local civil society and strong contributions from the private sector. Relief and recovery efforts were led by local as well as Union-level authorities who mobilized quickly to coordinate the response. In Nay Pyi Taw the Government officially activated its Emergency Operations Centre for the first time.

Bilateral support was provided by governments in the region and around the world. The United Nations and international organizations also mobilized to support the Government-led response. In strong contrast to the situation in 2008 after Cyclone Nargis, the Government welcomed international assistance and there was strong cooperation from the start, with concerted efforts being made to ensure an integrated approach to emergency relief and longer term recovery. It is clear that many of the lessons learned after Cyclone Nargis had resulted in vastly improved national preparedness and response, and this no doubt saved many lives. For example, much better early warning systems and emergency preparedness measures were in place in areas like Ayeyarwaddy, which were badly affected by Cyclone Nargis and which had benefitted from many subsequent disaster risk reduction efforts. However, places like Sagaing, Magway and Rakhine were far less well prepared for a flooding emergency on this scale and communities continue to face major challenges in recovering from the devastating effects of this disaster.



Mud and debris still covers vast areas of farmland in Sagaing. Credit: OCHA

The Government leads the overall response and recovery efforts

The Government of Myanmar has been leading the floods and landslides response and recovery efforts throughout the country. Emergency response efforts have included evacuations, provision of food, water, temporary shelter, health and other lifesaving assistance to flood affected people, as well as clean-up efforts, essential infrastructure repairs and support for farmers who experienced severe losses due to flooding of agricultural land. In September and October, the Government hosted a series of workshops and a provided a forum to discuss the findings of the Post-Floods and Landslides Needs Assessment (PFLNA) as part of the process of developing the Government's Recovery Plan.

This needs assessment was carried out by the Myanmar Government in collaboration with the World Bank, UN, European Union and Japan International Cooperation Agency, and was completed on 12 October. The needs assessment stresses the [importance of recovery planning adopting a people-centred approach, focusing on the restoration of damaged public sector infrastructure, and also taking into consideration the livelihoods of the affected population, as well as integrating disaster risk reduction measures](#). The Government had initially indicated that it would launch its own Recovery Plan in October, but in the build-up to the general elections on 8 November this was put on hold. Meanwhile, the United Nations and its partners are continuing to offer support to the Government to ensure that all immediate needs of flood affected people are met and to plan for and address the longer term recovery needs.

The floods had a severe impact on the livelihoods of families that rely on agriculture and concerted efforts are needed now to avoid secondary emergencies. Production losses are expected to be high and there has already been a decrease in opportunities for agricultural casual labour, which is one of the main income-generating activities for the rural population. Seeds, fertilizers and tools were lost in the disaster and irrigation systems were damaged. As a result, many farmers may miss the start of the upcoming winter and summer agricultural seasons. The timely provision of livelihood support packages for an immediate resumption of agricultural activities is therefore essential to prevent further degradation of the food security situation over the next year. The Government has indicated that it will be conducting further assessments in flood affected areas soon and that it plans to expand social protection schemes for affected people.

Local organizations play a central role in the flood response

Hundreds of thousands of people helped by local response efforts

The Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS) played a key role in the immediate response to the floods, supporting over 380,000 people with emergency evacuations. MRCS also reached over 70,000 people with distributions, including food, non-food items such as blankets, mosquito nets, kitchen sets, family and hygiene kits, as well as tarpaulins and shelter tool kits. They provided vital first aid and other health interventions. MRCS and its partners are now moving to early recovery activities with a focus on unconditional cash distributions and livelihoods activities in Chin, Sagaing and Magway. In addition, MRCS staff and volunteers are focusing on prevention of malaria and dengue, water and sanitation interventions and disaster risk reduction work.



MRCS volunteers helping children in Moe Kaung, Kachin State, July 2015 Credit: MRCS/U Genesh

Local NGOs and civil society organizations (CSOs) were also central to response efforts. For example, Network Activities Group (NAG), in partnership with INGOs and the private sector, provided

MRCS supported over 380,000 people with emergency evacuations during the floods

assistance to over 163,000 people in Magway, Sagaing and Ayeyarwady regions. Activities included food and livelihoods support, distribution of hygiene kits, cooking utensils, clean water and oral rehydration salts, as well as cleaning of water sources, provision of latrines, and cash distributions. NAG continues to support recovery efforts through livelihoods and water and sanitation programmes in Sagaing and Magway. Another example is the Chin Committee for Emergency Relief and Rehabilitation (CCERR), which oversees coordination, advocacy and information sharing and collection for a large network of civil society organizations and other partners involved in flood response and recovery efforts in Chin State.

International support for relief and recovery efforts

In August the United Nations and its humanitarian partners issued an Initial Flood Response Plan with a funding requirement of US\$ 75 million (subsequently revised to US\$ 67.5 million). By the end of October 2015 donors had contributed US\$ 37.3 million to this plan (55 per cent of requirements), with the top donors being United States of America, Japan, ECHO, Australia, Canada, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, United Kingdom, Livelihoods and Food Security Trust Fund and the UN Central Emergency Response Fund.

Over 455,000 flood affected people were provided with food assistance by WFP and partner organizations

By October, humanitarian partners including UNHCR, the International Federation of Red Cross (IFRC) and IOM, had provided shelter assistance to over 145,600 people whose homes were destroyed or severely damaged. The World Food Programme (WFP) and partners delivered life-saving food support to over 455,000 people in the first weeks of the response and will continue to provide food assistance to the most vulnerable until then end of the year. Starting from November, cash-based assistance or income generation projects will replace food assistance in some locations where there is access to markets to allow affected people to purchase their own food.



IOM and shelter partners have distributed over 10,800 shelter kits. Credit: IOM

In cooperation with the Government, the Water/Sanitation/Hygiene cluster has provided almost 230,000 flood-affected people with access to clean drinking water, while 150,000 people were provided with information about safe hygiene practices during the first two months of the response. Organizations working on protection, including the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), UNICEF and the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) have reached some 73,600 vulnerable people with critical services, including more than 15,000 boys and girls who were provided with psychosocial support. More than 7,000 dignity kits for women and girls were also distributed. Based on lessons learned from Cyclone Nargis, child protection concerns for townships that were severely affected include a possible rise in child trafficking, child labour and early marriages as families struggle to recover. The Government announced that it is prioritizing social protection for vulnerable groups, including children, the elderly, pregnant women and people with disabilities, as part of the recovery process.

Recovery efforts also began at the outset of the emergency, supported by UNDP and other partners

Organizations working in the health sector have reached over 145,000 people with basic healthcare during the first two months of the emergency, while more than 50,000 children between six months and five years of age received micronutrient supplements. With support from UNICEF, Save the Children and other Education Sector partners, some 32,500 flood affected children have been accessing emergency education services. Recovery efforts also began at the outset of the emergency, supported by the UN Development Programme (UNDP) and other partners. Working with the Government, the UN Food and Agricultural Organization (UNFAO) are providing seeds to farmers for replanting and new livestock to replace those lost in the floods.

Chin & Sagaing: 11,000 still in evacuation sites

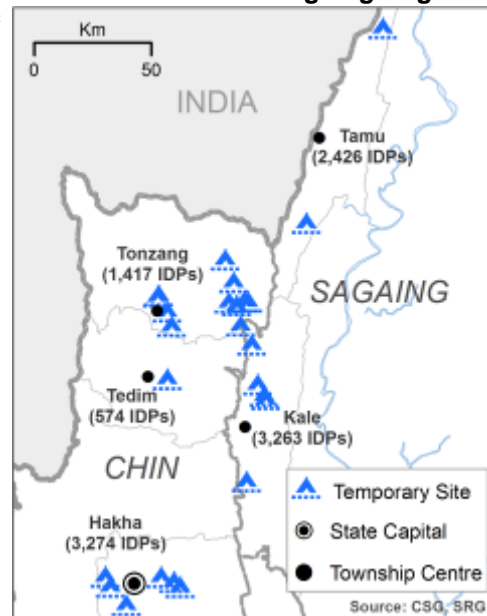
Almost 11,000 flood affected people remain in evacuation sites waiting to be relocated

Some people will be permanently relocated to new sites

Most of the people displaced by floods returned to their villages of origin within days. Some were in evacuation sites for several weeks, but almost all of the 1.7 million displaced people had returned to their homes by the end of October, leaving only 11,000 people in Sagaing Region and Chin State in evacuation centres. The Government has said it expects many of these people to be relocated before the end of the year. However, others may be in temporary accommodation for longer, particularly those who are awaiting relocation to new sites; their villages having been totally destroyed and no longer considered safe. Humanitarian organizations are making efforts to ensure the protection of people in evacuation sites, and to make sure they participate in decision-making about relocation plans and that their rights are respected.

According to the Government, almost 3,000 households in Chin State may eventually need to be relocated to other locations due to the risk of further landslides. Over 5,200 of these people are still in temporary camps in Hakha, Tonzang and Tedim townships, while 240 people are staying with host families. Geological surveys have been carried out to find suitable locations and new housing is being constructed by the government, but in the interim those who lost their homes remain in temporary camps. The Sagaing Region experienced severe flooding and 12 villages in Kale Township were so badly damaged by mud and debris that the people who lived here will need to be relocated. In other locations, displaced people have been awaiting the end of the rainy season before returning to their villages of origin. By the end of October, about 5,700 were still displaced in Kale and Tamu townships. Recent reports indicate that the People's Republic of China has agreed to a request from the Government of Myanmar for a large supply of pre-fabricated homes.

People in flood evacuation sites in Chin State and Sagaing Region



Better shelters and camp management support needed ahead of winter

The Government, local NGOs and faith-based organizations have been leading the immediate response, providing food, shelter, water and other basic necessities. The UN and INGOs are also providing assistance, including food, water and sanitation and early recovery support. In addition, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) has provided training on camp management. However, more support is needed to ensure that conditions and services, including tents/shelters, water and sanitation facilities and protection services, in the camps are adequate.

Better shelter solutions are urgently needed for people who remain in evacuation sites ahead of the winter

Humanitarian organizations have faced particular challenges in Chin State, due to its remoteness, the limited local capacity, and the difficult road access and logistics. In Chin, some of the displaced are still living in communal halls, some with no privacy and limited facilities such as latrines or bathing spaces. Better quality shelters is particularly important in high-altitude areas of Chin State where temperatures drop to freezing point between late October and January. UNHCR is distributing 820 better quality tents for people living in camps that will be improved with wooden floors for winterization. IOM and MRCS are planning to distribute blankets for winter, but other items such as stoves, solar lights, plastic sheets, repair kits for tents and fuel are needed. UNICEF, Save the Children and local NGOs are responding to water and sanitation needs in Hakha and Tedim but there are still gaps in some sites in Tonzang.

In Kale, some displaced families received tents from the Sagaing Regional Government, while in other locations temporary shelters were constructed from materials provided by

the government and local donors. Shelter and sanitation conditions are a concern in some sites. In the Nang San Pu village evacuation site, four families are sharing an area of only 12 by 12 feet. While materials have now been distributed to cord off living spaces and provide some privacy, better shelter solutions are needed if people are required to stay longer at this and other sites for the coming winter months. MRCS and IFRC are planning multi-purposes cash distributions for 701 households living in camps and will also distribute cash to 2,224 households in the 12 most affected villages. ADRA is planning to construct 800 temporary shelters in Kale and Tamu Townships. Authorities and Water and Sanitation partners are constructing new latrines, doing environmental cleaning, provision of latrines and/or water in temporary camps.

Rakhine: one of the areas worst hit by floods

Farmers are quick to replant following extensive damage to crops

Rakhine State experienced heavy flooding in June and July, and this was compounded in August when it became one of the worst hit areas in the country following Cyclone Komen. According to the National Natural Disaster Management Council (NNDMC), 62 people were killed, close to 100,000 people were displaced, over 13,700 houses were destroyed and 270,000 acres of farmland were damaged. According to the NNDMC, Minbya and Mrauk-U were among the most severely affected townships in the country. The townships of Buthidaung, Kyauktaw and Maungdaw were also badly hit. Many water sources in Rakhine were contaminated by flood or salt water and needed cleaning, posing a risk of water shortages during the 2016 dry season. There was extensive damage in Rakhine to public infrastructure and building, including schools and health facilities. The floods affected people in all communities, including people in IDP camps. Many of the temporary shelters in IDP camps were badly damaged during the floods.

Flood response activities are ongoing or planned in over 500 village tracts/towns in Rakhine State

The Rakhine State Government led emergency response and recovery efforts, with support from the military, MRCS, CSOs, the private sector and international organizations. In addition to other emergency response measures, the Government mobilized quickly to support farmers to replant where crops had been washed away or damaged. According to the NNDMC, over 215,000 acres of farmland had been re-cultivated by early October.

International organizations support local response efforts

The UN and INGOs have been responding to the humanitarian and recovery needs of all affected communities across the state. This includes distribution of food, clean water, blankets, mats and kitchen sets, provision of emergency healthcare and medicines, shelter materials, and emergency education and protection services, as well livelihoods and agricultural support to help families recover. Flood response activities are currently ongoing or planned in over 500 village tracts/towns in Rakhine State.



UNICEF and partners distributed water to over 1,600 people in Sa Par Htar village, Ponagyun township in Rakhine.
Credit: UNICEF/Kyaw Htet

In Mrauk-U and Buthidaung, where large sections of the towns were under several feet of water, international organizations have been working with the local authorities and CSOs to provide assistance to flood affected households. Activities include cleaning of wells and ponds, distribution of food, water, household items, hygiene kits or other essential items, and provision of health and nutrition services. CB Bank has provided cash grants to families in Mrauk-U whose houses were destroyed or severely damaged, to help them rebuild. In Buthidaung, reconstruction of houses is also underway. In addition,

humanitarian partners are involved in livelihoods support, income generation schemes, seed provision, and distribution of cash grants to help people in villages recover.

In the IDP camps, humanitarian organizations have been working to repair long-houses and other camp infrastructure that was damaged, including communal spaces. Many shelters were already in need of repair and maintenance after more than two years of wear and tear. Some families are still staying in communal spaces or under tarpaulins in existing shelters while waiting for repairs to be made. Organizations implementing shelter activities are carrying out repairs in Sittwe and Pauktaw camps.

Kachin: limited humanitarian access to conflict-affected civilians in the Sumprabum area

About 1,200 people remain displaced and in need of assistance in Sumprabum

Since fighting broke out in early July between the Myanmar Army and the Kachin Independence Army, some 1,200 civilians – of which some 500 are children – have been displaced in the Sumprabum area. The UN has not been granted access to the area despite repeated requests, and has not been able to independently verify these figures. The displaced have had little access to humanitarian assistance. Close to 1,800 other civilians in the area have also been affected by the conflict and remain vulnerable. A small number of households have been able to move out of the area, including to existing camps around Myitkyina, but most have not been able to leave the area of conflict. The UN and local and international humanitarian partners have repeatedly advocated for humanitarian access to the area to deliver essential assistance and for protection of civilians.

Those displaced include vulnerable individuals such as those with disabilities or serious/ chronic illnesses, children, the elderly and women. Displaced people are staying under tarpaulins and thatch tents and did not get a chance to take any belongings or food with them when they first fled. While some local Kachin Baptist churches were able to provide food and medical supplies in late October, emergency shelter, health and non-food items remain urgent needs. Local people from villages in this area have also been affected and are in need of support.

Hundreds flee clashes in Mansi Township

On 7 September, clashes erupted in Maing Khaung in Mansi Township. Sporadic fighting continued in the following days affecting several areas of Maing Khaung. About 750 people were newly displaced by this fighting. The displaced have been staying in pre-existing IDP camps in the area. They managed to receive assistance from local and international organizations after clashes subsided in the latter half of September. Some of these people have since been able to return to their villages to harvest their crops.

There are about 100,000 displaced people who have been living in camps for more than four years across Kachin and northern Shan states. Some 50 per cent of the displaced are staying in areas beyond the Government's control.

Displaced people in Sumprabum include vulnerable individuals such as people with disabilities or serious/chronic illnesses, women, children and the elderly

New OCHA Resources

[Myanmar: Humanitarian Snapshot \(16 Oct 2015\)](#)

[Myanmar: Flood affected population, Chin State \(21 September\)](#)

[Myanmar: Internal Displacement in Kachin and northern Shan States \(August 2015\)](#)

[Myanmar: IDP Sites in Rakhine State \(August 2015\)](#)

(Click to access documents)

New displacement in Kachin and Shan states, July to October 2015



Southern Shan: new fighting and displacement

Up to 6,000 IDPs in southern Shan displaced by conflict

On 6 October 2015, fighting broke out between the Myanmar army and Shan State Army North (SSA-N) forces in Monghsu Township, southern Shan State, and it has continued since then. Up to 6,000 people have been displaced, with those affected initially staying in monasteries and IDP camps in Monghsu and Kyethi townships. This includes an estimated 1,500 people displaced following clashes on 29 October. Reports from local organizations indicate at least four civilians were injured in the fighting, including one child. Access to Monghsu Hospital, the nearest medical facility, is restricted because of the fighting and insecurity and this is causing urgent health concerns for the displaced population. The UN continues to call for protection of civilians and humanitarian access.

Assessments undertaken by INGOs and local CSOs have identified immediate needs for hygiene kits, clothing, blankets, medicines, shelter and water and sanitation. Following the most recent clashes, many IDPs are still in open fields, with adequate shelter being an urgent need. Humanitarian organizations and local communities have provided support to the IDPs including food, hygiene kits and other non-food items, but further assistance is urgently needed. According to WFP, food donated by local communities and organizations is sufficient for now, although additional nutritional support is needed for vulnerable groups such as the elderly and pregnant women.

Kokang: Most of the displaced have returned

Humanitarian organizations providing initial assistance to returnees

Between July and October 2015, fighting between the Myanmar army and the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDAA) and other armed groups subsided in the Kokang Self-Administered Zone.

According to the Relief and Resettlement Department in Lashio, of the 60-70,000 people who fled to China after fighting broke out in February, some 8,000 people remain across the border, while others have now returned. People have primarily returned to the Laukkai area and in the area south of Laukkai. The Government has said it plans to accommodate IDPs who remain in China in three transit centers, where they will be provided with assistance and screened before returning.



OCHA talks to community members during a mission to Kokang in September 2015. Credit: OCHA

Access to Kokang has improved but remains restricted, particularly in the area north of Laukkai. Several missions took place in the last few months to assess the humanitarian situation and start delivery of assistance. This includes missions by Care International, WFP, the International Committee for the Red Cross (ICRC), UNICEF and the OCHA. These initial assessments highlighted the need for food and livelihoods assistance, household items and protection services. The need for improved water supply systems was also identified, but this is a longer-term need from before the conflict. Additional sector-specific assessments are required.

In September, WFP distributed food to over 6,400 returnees in Kokang. Health Poverty Action (HPA) started relief activities for returnees in August 2015, providing relief items such as quilts, cooking utensils, hygiene kits and mosquito nets. It has also been providing health education, nutritional support and outreach medical services in 17 villages in Laukkai and Kongkyan townships in cooperation with local NGOs. HPA plans to provide food and hygiene kits to IDPs in BP No.137 camp in Laukkai Township from November. Several other organizations that were working in Kokang before February 2015 have also been able to re-start some of their activities.

Lack of access to medical facilities is an urgent concern for displaced people and other civilians in areas affected by fighting in Shan State

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