

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Clashes in Mansi in Kachin State led to the displacement of over 3,000 people while joint missions to non-governmental areas reached 26,000 people.
- Diminished humanitarian access in Rakhine State has made it increasingly difficult to monitor and respond to events affecting IDPs.
- Flash floods in Bago Region temporarily displace 50,000 people.
- Resettlement begins of 5,400 displaced people still in camps following Meikhtila violence.

## FIGURES

|   |         |
|---|---------|
| # people in need of humanitarian assistance | 906,000 |
| # of IDPs                                   | 649,000 |
| # of stateless people                       | 808,000 |

## FUNDING

### Rakhine Response Plan

**109.3 million**  
requested (US\$)

**78.6%** funded

### Kachin Response Plan

**50.9 million**  
requested (US\$)

**50%** funded



OCHA

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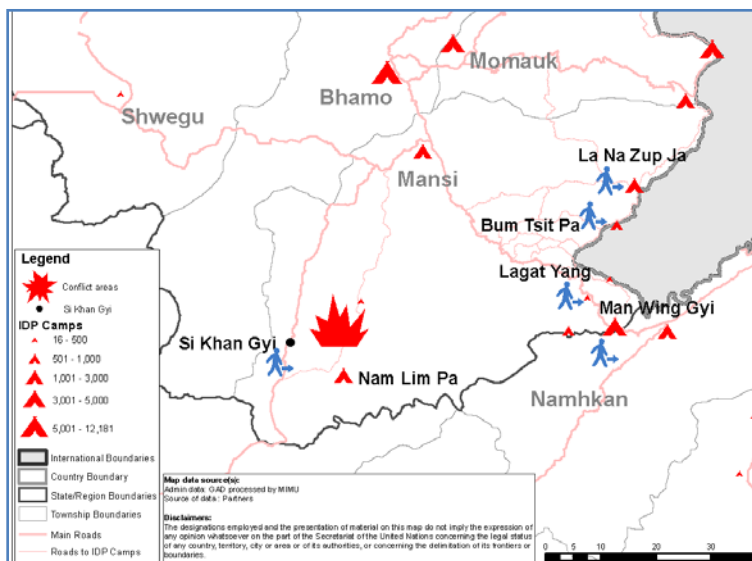
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## Renewed clashes in Kachin State

### Over 3,000 people flee fighting in Mansi township

In October and November 2013, clashes broke out between the Myanmar Army and the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) in the Mansi area. Approximately 1,500 people from affected villages including Mung Ding Pa were initially displaced to the camps in Bhamo, Maing Kaung village, and Nam Lim Pa. Access to more than 1,000 IDPs in Nam Lim Pa, including both new and existing IDPs, was restricted due to the security situation and logistical access constraints.

In early November, clashes broke out near Nam Lim Pa and led to the additional displacement of more than 2,000 people, including residents, IDPs, and students from a boarding school. Although the situation remains fluid, as of early December, a total of over 3,000 people have fled to locations in Man Win Gyi and Lagat Yang, as well as to existing camps in La Na Zup Ja and Bum Tsit Pa – in addition to those already hosted in Maing Kaung as well as Bhamo. The situation of an additional 400 IDPs from Kaung Lwin village taking shelter at a monastery in Si Khan Gyi remains of concern, as access is restricted and they are in need of shelter, educational support and Non-Food Items.



It is essential that both local and international humanitarian organisations are provided regular and unimpeded access to all IDPs in order to continue to respond immediately to the urgent needs of the IDPs displaced by the renewed clashes. In order prevent the worsening of humanitarian situation in Kachin State, all parties need to respect and ensure the safety and protection of the displaced persons.

### Joint missions to non-government areas reach over 26,000 people

In October and November 2013, United Nations Agencies and International NGOs completed four joint missions across frontlines in Myanmar's Kachin State. Amidst on-going peace negotiations, authorities agreed to missions for Laiza, Maija Yang, Lwegel and Sadung - areas with high numbers of IDPs in need of humanitarian relief. A planned fifth mission to Mansi had to be postponed due to the renewed insecurity. This aid

*Full and sustained access by international actors to all affected communities is needed*

supplements regular humanitarian assistance being provided by local humanitarian organisations since the conflict resumed more than two years ago. Local organisations have been central to the humanitarian effort in Kachin, covering the most urgent needs of the displaced and affected communities.

The latest missions supported more than 26,000 people with food supplies for up to two months, non-food items (mosquito nets, blankets, cooking utensils, etc), and medical supplies- needs that were prioritized based on assessments and in coordination with local NGOs working in the area. Training workshops in camp management, protection, and health were also conducted. Further assessments also uncovered gaps in the sectors of food, health, and shelter. As winter is approaching, there is an urgent need for additional warm clothes and blankets.

### **More access needed**

While it is a positive step that international organisations have been able to periodically conduct cross-line missions, full and sustained access by international actors to all affected communities is needed to adequately monitor the situation and to be able to complement the response of local humanitarian NGOs to assist more than 52,000 displaced people living in areas beyond government control.

## **Rakhine State: Community tensions impede humanitarian response to violence and monitoring of IDP displacements**

### **Lack of access has impact on humanitarian monitoring and assistance**

Over the past months, the anti-UN/INGO sentiment in Rakhine has become increasingly prevalent and more openly expressed. Threats to humanitarian staff and aid operations are resulting in an extremely difficult environment for ongoing response activities to assist vulnerable and displaced people.

The situation is particularly difficult in Myebon, Sittwe and Kyauktaw, with incidents reported including: stoning of premises identified for office space, refusal by owners of guesthouses to rent to accommodation international aid workers, threats on the lives of aid agency staff, harassment of staff which in some cases has led to staff members resigning, problems securing supplies and contractors for essential relief works, and blocking of access to camps by members of the community or security staff. Since June, threats have intensified with letters, pamphlets and open threats on Facebook. In some cases this has led to a serious decline in the provision of basic services for IDPs as some agencies have been forced to temporarily suspend relief activities.

### **More dialogue needed**

More systematic dialogue between the Government and the affected communities is needed to begin to reverse negative trends. Mechanisms to begin rebuilding the trust that has been severely eroded over the past several months are needed. In addition, addressing anti-UN / NGO sentiments and the growing number of incidents that directly and indirectly target aid workers is urgently required.

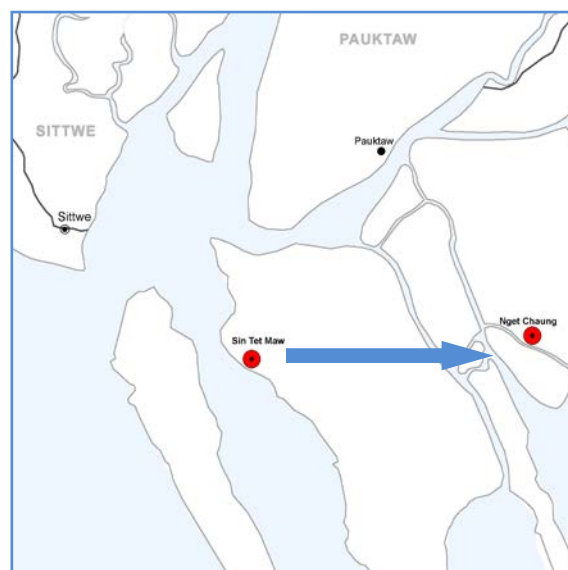
Communities need to be reminded that Muslim IDPs are not the only ones who need help in Rakhine State: many ethnic Rakhine people are also extremely poor and suffer from the chronic under-development of the state: their needs are different, but equally important. Community resistance makes it impossible for development assistance to take momentum.

*Threats to humanitarian staff and aid operations are resulting in an extremely difficult environment*

## Violent incidents followed by IDP relocations in Pauktaw

Two violent incidents occurred on 2 November near Sin Tat Maw camp for IDPs in Pauktaw Township, Rakhine State, which resulted in four people killed and at least three seriously injured. These incidents were followed by a protest by the local community at Sittwe hospital as a false rumours spread that NGOs only assisted Muslims in the wake of the violence.

Community resistance and perceived insecurity over the next 2 weeks stopped NGOs and UN agencies from accessing IDP camps in Pauktaw. This period coincided with an operation by authorities who undertook the transfer of an estimated 3,500 IDPs from Sin Tat Maw to Nget Chaung with little to no warning to either humanitarian actors or the IDPs themselves. UN agencies and NGOs were therefore not able to monitor the transfers nor ensure that the resettlement of displaced people was voluntary and occurred in safety and dignity.



*Community resistance and perceived insecurity over 2 weeks stopped NGOs and UN agencies from accessing IDP camps in Pauktaw.*

## Sharp increase in maritime migrations

The inclement weather marking the start of the sailing season has led to a sharp increase in the number of departures of boats carrying Muslim people from Rakhine wishing to emigrate to Thailand, Malaysia, and further afield. Unfortunately this has been accompanied by an increasing number of boats sinking. In the latest reported boat incident, on November 3, a vessel with over 70 people aboard sank and only 8 people were reported to have survived, with dozens of passengers missing.

Reports suggest that 24,000 people left on boats from Myanmar and Bangladesh in the first eight months of this year, while according to UNHCR sources, more than 1,500 people boarded boats in northern Rakhine State over the first week of November. Some recent changes observed include the use of bigger boats to transport more passengers, as well as a lower prices and easier methods of payment which are facilitating the greater number of departures.

Another observed trend is the increased presence of women and children among the people departing by boat. Whereas before the inter-communal violence that began in June 2012, the overwhelming majority of people fleeing Rakhine State were men, entire families are now also risking their lives on the perilous journey. In addition, more departures of women, both single and married, without their families have been noted. From interviews done with people who have made the journey, they seem to be driven by serious protection concerns stemming from violence, ethnic conflict, instability, discrimination, and a lack of citizenship rights. Furthermore, continued restriction of movement on IDPs and surrounding communities are preventing them from resuming livelihood activities or from accessing markets. This has a direct negative impact on their food security status, which will continue to deteriorate unless their freedom of movement is restored.



Aung Muang Sein, 55 yrs old, runs a small shop in an IDP camp in rural Sittwe to supplement the WFP assistance his family receives. Photo: OCHA.

*24,000 people left on boats from Myanmar and Bangladesh in the first eight months of this year*

## Flash floods in Bago Region temporarily displace 50,000 people

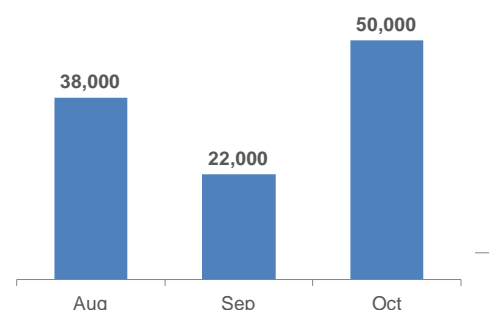
*Disaster risk reduction and preparedness activities are required*

Due to heavy rains, the Sittoung River overflowed and flooded nearby areas in Bago Region from 28 October to 2 November 2013. In four townships, Taungoo, Yedashe, Ottwin, and Htantabin, approximately 50,000 people from 13,674 households were displaced by the floods and sheltered in 72 relief camps opened by the government. Two deaths from the floods were reported. Floodwaters receded on 5 November and as of 6 November, 15,830 people were in 33 relief camps. As floodwaters continued to recede, they were expected to soon be able to return to their places of origin, too.



### FLASH FLOODS

People affected by floods in 2013



Relief items valued at US\$ 264,000 were distributed to the affected population. The Government distributed rice, instant noodles, drinking water, edible oil, and non-food items. WFP provided a two-week food supply for an estimated 30,000 displaced people in Taungoo and Yedashe. Local organisations and communities distributed relief items to the affected population. 57,395 acres of paddy fields were flooded, with an estimated 15,000 acres severely damaged. Provision of agricultural loans and seeds is planned to the affected farmers to be able to grow cold season crops.

### Disaster Risk Reduction Needed

During the rainy season in 2013, flash floods have affected a number of areas in the country, displaced tens of thousands of people, and damaged paddy fields and crops fields. Lessons learned and experiences from this year's floods indicated the need to strengthen disaster risk reduction and preparedness activities to mitigate the impact of natural disasters on vulnerable populations in the coming years. Feedback from affected communities needs to be considered to improve disaster risk reduction and preparedness strategies.

## Meikhtila: Implementation of return and resettlement plans for 5,400 displaced people

*The plan includes construction of two-storey buildings at the locations of burnt houses*

More than seven months after the outbreak of violence that killed 43 people, 5,400 IDPs remain in five camps in Meikhtila town and Yin Daw in Mandalay State. Both government and international organisations have been providing assistance for the IDPs, but significant gaps remain. An OCHA mission to Meikhtila in October found that assistance had been scaled down due to the budget limitations. The team also found shortages of medicines in camp clinics, reduced drinking water supply, and the need for latrine sludge removal. Shelter conditions remain particularly difficult for the 270 households staying in the city's stadium.

### IDPs express wish to return

A curfew imposed in Meikhtila in March as a result of the violence was lifted in July, although IDPs continue to experience restrictions in their movements outside the camp between 6am and 6pm. Security presence remains at camp gates to monitor movements. IDPs have indicated that they want to return to their areas of origin, but the government's return and resettlement plan has only just begun.

### Returns and resettlement process due to finish in April 2014

A resettlement committee composed of the regional Government, local authorities, private donors and IDP representatives has been formed and has submitted a proposal to the



Chief Minister of Mandalay. The resettlement plan is now approved and implementation has started, with construction beginning in January 2014. According to the plan, 93 households from Chan Aye Thar Yar ward with land ownership documents will return and rebuild their houses with support from private donors. Those households without land ownership documents are to be resettled into two-storey buildings to be constructed by the government and private donors. The project is projected to be completed in April 2014. Communications with the IDPs regarding the resettlement process should continue to ensure that priority needs are addressed, particularly in restarting livelihoods.

## Disaster management law takes a step forward toward implementation

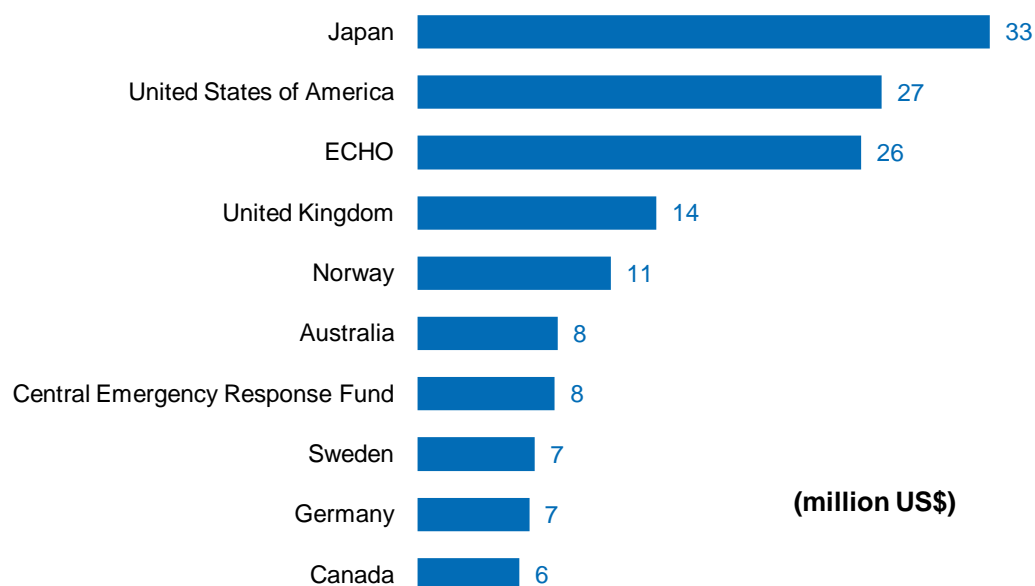
### Consultation workshop held on rules and regulations

The Myanmar Disaster Management Law enacted in July 2013 provides the broad legal and institutional framework for disaster risk management in the country covering the phases before, during and after a disaster. In order to lay out the details of the law and its effective implementation the associated rules and regulations need to be prepared. The Relief, Rescue and Resettlement Department (RRD) leads the drafting process of the regulations with the support of Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group.

A consultation workshop on the regulations under the disaster management law of Myanmar was held on 29-30 October in Nay Pyi Taw. Led by the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, representatives from government departments and the Attorney General's Office, representatives from UN and INGOs, and invited disaster management experts from the Philippines and Indonesia attended the workshop. Revisions on the institutional arrangements, and inclusion of a specific chapter on international assistance were key recommendations from the workshop. Members of the Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group are supporting the government in finalising the recommendations from the workshop and proposed next steps to establish the regulations under the disaster management law.

*Members of the Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group are supporting the government*

## Top 10 Humanitarian Donors to Myanmar in 2013



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