

HIGHLIGHTS

- Preparedness Plan for the rainy season focuses on meeting the immediate shelter needs of 69,000 people deemed the most vulnerable.
- HC/RC highlights priority actions needed by Government for a swift implementation of the Plan.
- The Central Committee for Peace and Development in Rakhine chaired by the Vice President formed last month.
- CERF contributes \$5 million in response to immediate needs in Rakhine.

FIGURES

# of IDPs	140,000
# of most vulnerable	69,000
# Potential affected population	260,000

FUNDING

68 million

requested (US\$) in the Rakhine Response Plan

58% funded

13.6 million

requested (US\$) in the March 2013 Preparedness Plan

5 million

CERF funded



UNICEF

In this issue

Preparedness Plan for the rains P.1

Strengthening relationships P.2

CERF funds P.3

Critical funding needs P.3

Inter agency Preparedness Plan for the rainy season

The inter-communal violence in June and October 2012 resulted in at least 140,000 people displaced across Rakhine. However, the number of people affected by the crisis is much higher with several thousands of displaced people who are yet to be registered. Ten months after the violence, a majority of IDPs remain in makeshift camps located in paddy fields or in areas which will be inundated during the upcoming rainy season due to begin in May. Access to livelihood and basic services remains limited due to continued restrictions on movement and unresolved return options.

In view of protracted displacement and potential deterioration of humanitarian situation due to the upcoming monsoon and possibility for further violence, humanitarian partners, in collaboration with the Government, developed the Inter-agency Preparedness Plan for Rakhine (the full [Plan](#) can be accessed on [MIMU website](#)). The plan aims to address preparedness and response actions with specific sector/cluster response plans for two scenarios: 1) a potential natural hazard such as cyclone which would affect over 260,000 people across Rakhine and 2) potential deterioration of humanitarian situation in the rainy season, in particular for camps located in paddy fields which will be flooded once the rains start.

The situation of IDPs camps will worsen during the rainy season unless immediate action is taken.

Meeting the immediate shelter needs of 69,000 people before the rainy season is a top priority as they are located in flood-prone camps and/or living in tents and makeshift shelters which will not withstand the rains. The situation is particularly concerning in **13 camps in Sittwe (40,000 people), Pauktaw (20,000 people), Myebon (3,900) people** which will be inundated as they are in former paddy fields or close to the shore and at risk of storm surge. Another **5,000 IDPs** are not in appropriate shelters to withstand the rains. Flooding will result in a rapid deterioration of shelter, water and sanitation and health conditions. Overflowing of latrines and lack of drainage will increase risks of water-borne diseases, morbidity and mortality.

Level of Risk by Township

1st Priority

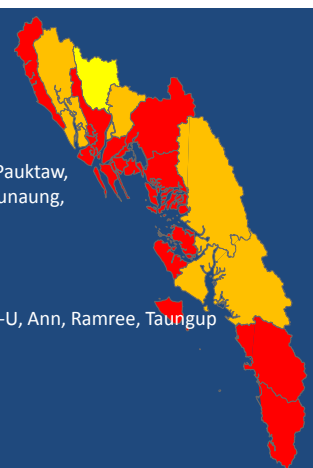
Maungdaw, Sittwe, Ponnagyun, Pauktaw, Minbya, Myebon, Kyaukphyu, Munaung, Thandwe, Gwa

2nd Priority

Buthidaung, Rathedaung, Mrauk-U, Ann, Ramree, Taungup

3rd Priority

Kyauktaw



Strengthened collaboration between Government and partners

Partners engaged in preparedness planning for the incoming rains, but also, as the likelihood of a cyclone hitting Rakhine State is high, in a contingency planning exercise considering a possible scenario where a cyclone would hit Rakhine, and some 200,000 people would be affected, including some 80,000 of those already displaced. Should this scenario become a reality, the total caseload of people of critical humanitarian concern to a total of some 260,000 people

To ensure commitments from all stakeholders, the Plan was discussed with Government ministries (including the Ministries of Border Affairs, of Population and Immigration and of President Office), humanitarian partners and donors.

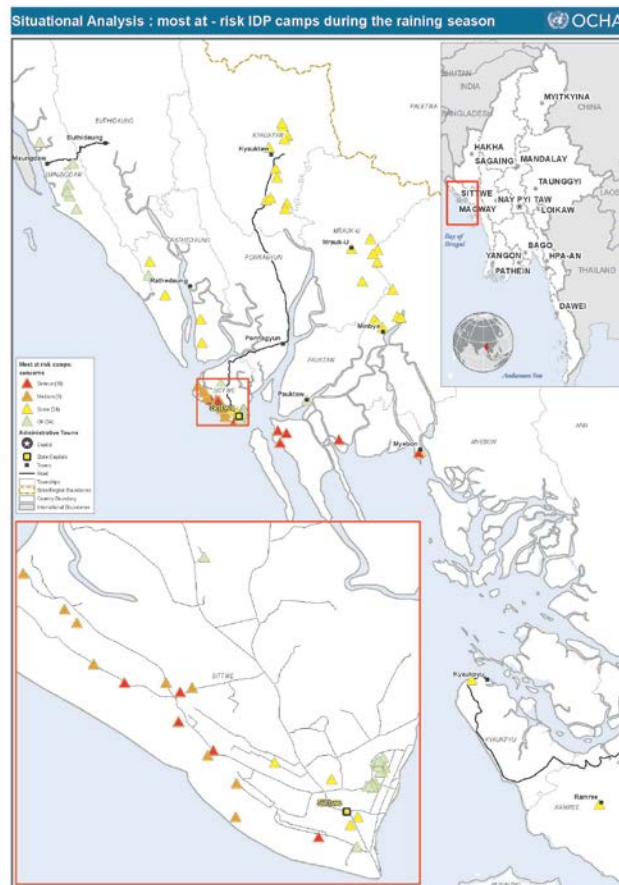
On 6 April a coordination meeting chaired by the Minister of Border Affairs was held to discuss the implementation of peace and stability in Rakhine, the RC/HC highlighted priority actions needed for a swift implementation of the Plan.

During the same meeting, it was agreed that priority be given to land allocation, provision of shelter and WASH facilities, especially in Myebon and Pauktaw, and increased access to livelihood opportunities.

A separate meeting between the Minister of Immigration and Population and the international community was held on 9 April that also resulted in collaboration and opportunities for joint advocacy as well as a joint field visit to Rakhine. The Minister stated that community segregation is not the policy of the Government and committed to provide the necessary security for aid workers operating in Rakhine, highlighting that harassment of humanitarian workers will not be tolerated and measures will be put in place to ensure smooth the continuation of humanitarian operations. While commitment was made to address a number of issues raised by the international community, including support for establishing an Emergency Coordination Centre (ECC) in Sittwe and discussing the Government's long term plan, the Minister pledged to conduct the annual registration across Rakhine starting in late April.

Acknowledging the Government's commitment and its recognition of the need to address the immediate humanitarian challenges at hand while developing a long-term plan to tackle the root causes of the problem, the RC/HC and key donor representatives reinforced the message to the Government to take the following agreed key actions to be implemented before the upcoming rains.

1. Develop a long-term plan to ensure voluntary return of IDPs;
2. Allocate land for shelter and WASH facilities, especially in Pauktaw;
3. Expand already allocated land for construction of shelters in Myebon;
4. Register IDPs across Rakhine after the water festival;
5. Create livelihood opportunities that will promote reconciliation efforts;
6. Take action against those intimidating humanitarian workers;



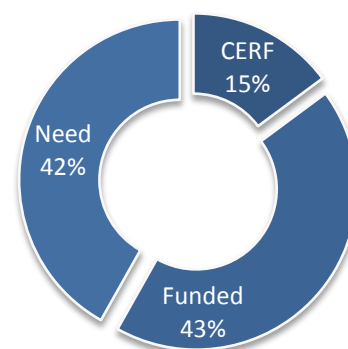
7. Increase Government coordination capacity with a strong line of communications between the Union level, the state and the communities;
8. Formalize the establishment of the ECC in Sittwe.

In March, the President formed a Central Committee for Peace and Development in Rakhine chaired by the Vice President, along with formation of six sub-committees to focus on specific areas including stability and rule of law, security and territorial domination, immigration and citizenship, socio economic development, collaboration with UN and INGOs and strategic planning. The committee's tasks are to address immediate needs before the rainy season, scale up rehabilitation activities and develop short-term and long term strategies, including elaboration of the Government's plan to resolve issues through reconciliation. In a meeting of the Central Committee on 9th April, the President stressed the importance and the urgency to ensure the "rehabilitation of victims ahead of the monsoon... (including) construction of buildings (shelters), choosing of sites for construction ... and peace and stability." Additionally he noted that the "long-term plan for handling of Rakhine conflict should be set (and that) Myanmar people themselves need to address the internal affairs peacefully."

CERF contributes \$5 million

On 24 April the United Nations (UN) Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) has provided \$5 million in additional funding to provide life-saving assistance in response to agencies request to immediate needs of the most vulnerable of the displaced in Sittwe, Pauktaw and Myebon townships.

This is the third allocation by the UN Emergency Relief Coordinator Valerie Amos to help fund urgent humanitarian operations in Rakhine State following the inter-communal violence. CERF has now allocated over \$15 million to the humanitarian situation in Rakhine since June 2012. The \$5 million will go towards the activities of four UN agencies and their humanitarian partners so they can carry out activities in health, shelter, water and sanitation.



Critical funding still needed

Prior to these immediate needs in preparation for the rainy season, the Rakhine Response Plan amounts, as of end March, to some US \$39.5 million out of the \$68 million required. Partners need an additional \$28.5 million (42 per cent) to provide life-saving assistance. Funding and material short-falls are particularly critical as preparedness ahead of the monsoon needs to be stepped up to reduce further suffering of those affected by the crisis through the prioritized preparedness plan which focuses on the next three months.

Inquiry Commission in Rakhine State to release findings report

The Inquiry Commission submitted its final report to the President on 23 April and announced it will hold a press conference at the end of the month at the Myanmar Peace Centre. The Commission was tasked by the President to investigate into areas of inter-communal violence, to analyse the findings and provide advice on moving forward in all affected areas.

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