



COVID-19 OUTBREAK: Rakhine, Kachin and Northern Shan States

Protection Sector Key Asks

In the most serious scenario of wide community transmissions of COVID-19 in Rakhine, Kachin and Northern Shan States, there will be a range of protection issues which will impact different groups. The most vulnerable are likely to be the most affected by it and, therefore, need to be prioritized in preparedness and response plans. The COVID-19 pandemic raises serious concerns about the lack of access to information and health care for the most vulnerable populations in Rakhine, Kachin and Northern Shan states.

All stakeholders are encouraged to advocate for the following measures with relevant authorities and where needed with the support of relevant international actors:

- State authorities to remove the restrictions on movement and amplify messaging that health facilities are protected spaces open to **ALL** people, including IDPs and those living in non-government-controlled areas.
- State authorities to ensure that **ALL** people, (regardless of documentation, status, gender, disability, ethnicity, religion or language), can receive lifesaving testing and treatment in a timely manner.
- It is critical to ensure the accessibility, availability and quality of health care facilities, goods and services to **ALL** people, including IDPs and those living in non-government-controlled areas. Camps and camp-like settings should be recognized as being among the community spaces most at risk of facilitating infection and WASH resources to support prevention should be monitored, upgraded and improved as needed.
- Messaging about the COVID-19 epidemic to be translated into the languages spoken in the camps, villages and camp-like settings. Messaging should also ensure the use of different forms of communication to ensure accessibility to **ALL**.
- Health staff to be reminded of the ethics of their profession and ensure that **ALL** patients receive the same quality of care without discrimination
- Measures should be taken to ensure that **NO ONE** is denied treatment for the lack of means
- “Social distancing” or any other COVID-19 preventive measures should not be used as a justification for limiting access to humanitarian interventions or basic social services
- Displaced, stateless and conflict affected people and communities should be included in township-level coordination structures designed to support preparedness and response to the outbreak to ensure that their specific needs are addressed in relevant planning.