



This report is produced by OCHA on behalf of the Humanitarian Coordinator. It covers the period from 27 July to 15 August.

I. HIGHLIGHTS/KEY PRIORITIES

- The Rakhine State Government estimates that over 68,500 IDPs are accommodated in 63 camps in Sittwe, Kyauktaw and Maungdaw Townships.
- A response plan prepared by the UN and NGO partners estimates that US\$32.5 million are required to provide assistance to some 80,000 vulnerable people until December 2012.

II. Situation Overview

Of the over 100,000 people affected at the beginning of the crisis, many have already returned home as the overall security situation is improving across the state. As of 11 August, the Rakhine State Government estimates that over 68,500 Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) are accommodated in 63 camps in Sittwe, Kyauktaw and Maungdaw Townships, of which nine camps in Sittwe are sheltering close to 60,000 IDPs.

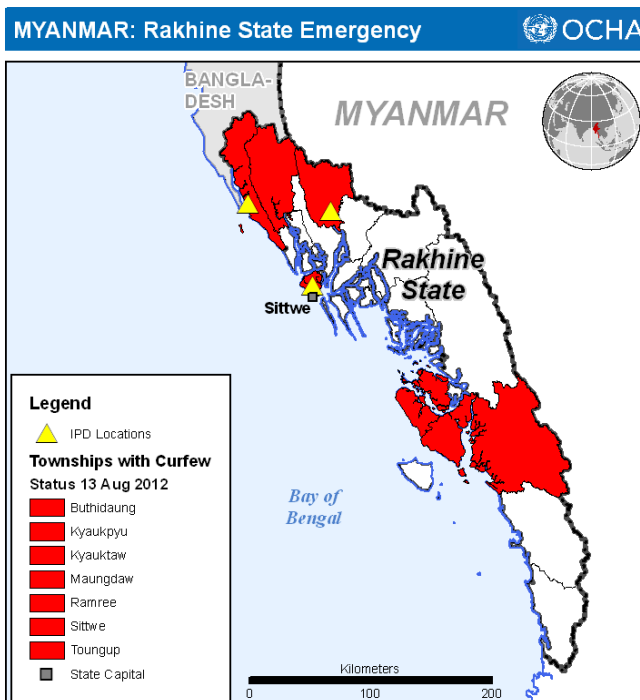
Population movements continue with reports of new arrivals (approximately 3,000 IDPs) from a village on the outskirts of Sittwe in two camps near Sittwe Town due to lack of access to livelihoods and food. On 5-7 August, a new displacement of over 3,000 people was reported in Kyauktaw due to conflict between communities. According to the Rakhine State Government, since the beginning of the communal violence, a total of 87 people were killed and 120 injured with over 5,300 houses destroyed due to the violence.

The reports of security incidents over the last couple of weeks have substantially decreased.

However, inter-communal tensions remain very high with reports of sporadic conflicts in some townships of the state. On 11 August, the Government reviewed the security situation across the state and changed the curfew hours from 6pm until 6am to 7pm until 5am in seven townships, including in Kyauktaw as a result of the recent violence. The Government reported that over 1,300 security personnel have been deployed to restore stability and address the security concerns expressed by both communities.

Safety and security of humanitarian workers continue to be of a major concern as several provocative statements have been made by organizations against communities and against UN and NGOs, fueling tensions and hampering assessments and delivery of relief support to the victims of the violence. The Government and the humanitarian community under the leadership of the Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator (RC/HC) have taken measures to address those issues including through joint visits to both affected communities, dialogue with community leaders and dissemination of information about the cooperation between the Government and humanitarian partners through various channels.

A number of high-level delegations visited Rakhine State during the reporting period. On 31 July and 1 August, a mission led by Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Thein Htay and joined by ambassadors, diplomats as well as the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar, Mr. Tomas Ojea Quintana, visited camps in Sittwe and Maungdaw townships. UNOCHA's Director of Operations, Mr. John Ging, accompanied by the UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Myanmar, Mr. Ashok Nigam visited Sittwe and met with senior government officials, partners and the affected



populations, calling for respect for humanitarian principles and international humanitarian law to enable aid agencies to access areas of conflict and help those in need.

On 10 August, a delegation led by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Turkey Mr. Ahmet Davutoglu was received in Sittwe by the Union Minister of Border Affairs and senior government officials. The delegation visited camps in Sittwe and met with the government officials, the UN RC/HC, representatives from UN agencies and partners. The Turkish Red Cross has an MoU with the Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS) to provide assistance to IDPs in the affected locations.

On 11 August, a delegation, which comprised former Vice President and current President of the Indonesian Red Cross Society (Palang Merah Indonesia) Jusuf Kalla and joined by Assistant Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs for the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Ambassador Atta El- Manna Bakhit, the President of the Qatari Red Crescent Society Dr. Venkatesh Mannar, the Secretary General of the Indonesian Red Cross Society and the Indonesian Ambassador to Myanmar, visited Sittwe, highlighting the readiness to support relief efforts.

III. Humanitarian Needs and Response

The Government has been providing assistance to IDPs, including food, shelter, NFIs and medical supplies, among others, since the beginning of the conflict. On 4-5 August, the Vice-President visited Rakhine and provided assistance to IDPs in Sittwe and Maungdaw Townships. The Government has been constructing a number of relief camps and temporary shelters in the affected locations to accommodate the displaced people until a longer term solution is found.

At the request of the Government, humanitarian agencies are gearing up the response and operating in the full respect of the humanitarian principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality and independence. An inter-agency multi-sectoral rapid needs assessment was conducted between 25 June and 10 July in 121 locations in four townships, covering 107,886 IDPs (18,697 households).

Whilst partners are redoubling efforts and are employing all available resources to respond to the needs of the affected people, more support is required to continue providing critical life-saving interventions. In an effort to enhance assistance and coordination, humanitarian partners in undertook an analysis of the situation and identified scenarios for the coming six months, against which sectoral plans and priorities were identified, taking into consideration the results of the inter-agency rapid assessment as well as the response priorities indicated by the Government and affected communities. As a result, a comprehensive response plan was developed.

The plan estimates that up to 80,000 people, including IDPs and the most vulnerable in host communities that have been directly impacted by the incidents and that are not included in previous interventions will require relief assistance. Some US\$32.5 million will be required to ensure assistance to the current caseload until the end of 2012.



Education

- Security concerns led to a serious shortage of teachers and early-childhood development (ECD) facilitators in the camps. Parents are also reluctant to send their children to schools for security reasons.
- Partners reported that although most of the schools have re-opened in Sittwe (91 out of 113), Kyauktaw (184 out of 199) and Rathedaung (156 out of 167) as of 7 August, the situation in two northern townships is of concern. In Maungdaw, only two schools have reportedly opened with the remaining 157 still closed. In Buthidaung, only 10 out of 154 schools have reopened. UNICEF will support schools in these townships with school supplies as part of its regular programme funded by the multi-donor education fund.



Food

- The majority of the IDP locations are still heavily reliant on food aid from the Government, humanitarian partners and religious organizations. With low levels of domestic stocks in camps, delivery of food assistance will continue to be needed.
- In July, WFP assisted 77,781 affected people with 1,112 MT of mixed food commodities. In early August, some 55,000 people were provided with 292 MT of food. The resumption of regular food distribution in three townships of northern

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food aid in July.

Rakhine State is crucial in order to address concerns over the impact of the nutritional status and food security of the most vulnerable population during the current lean season.



Health and Nutrition

- Although no major outbreaks have been recorded thus far, health personnel reported increasing number of diarrhea cases in IDP camps in the affected locations. Moreover, a number of malaria cases were reported over the past few weeks from mobile clinics. Due to the security situation, challenges remain in access to the camps by health workers as well as in making referrals to hospitals. UNICEF is supporting the Department of Health (DOH) with the travel cost for health staff to reach IDP camps across the region.
- The Myanmar Medical Association, with support from UNFPA, continues to provide maternal and reproductive health care services in Rethedaung and Sittwe Townships. To date, over 1,000 people have been covered by the services.
- MRCS volunteers continue to provide health care services to IDPs in and around Sittwe Township. To date, MRCS provided psychosocial support to 1,610 IDPs and health education to 5,863 IDPs in the affected locations. Some 30 patients have benefited from MRCS's medical evacuation service to the hospital.
- The nutritional situation of the children is of concern. The assessment findings indicate that malnutrition was reported in over half of the assessed locations with some 2,000 acutely malnourished children facing high risk of mortality.
- The State Health Department continues to provide high energy biscuits supported by UNICEF to six months to five years old children and pregnant and lactating women who come to the clinics for health intervention. UNICEF has supplied Ready to Use Therapeutic Food (RUTF) to the State Nutrition Team and the Myanmar Health Assistants Association (MHAA) to start Outpatient Therapeutic Feeding in camps in Sittwe. Micronutrient tablets for pregnant and lactating women and micronutrient sprinkles for under-five children have also been distributed through the State Nutrition Team and MHAA with the support of UNICEF. WFP continues to distribute fortified blended food for children and pregnant/lactating women.



Shelter and NFIs

- The Government is constructing a number of relief camps and temporary shelters to accommodate IDPs in the affected locations. In Sittwe, some 90 shelter units have been constructed. The Government distributed 200 tents and made an urgent request to humanitarian partners to provide additional tents. In support of the Government efforts to reduce overcrowding in the camps with high population density, UNHCR will deliver some 700 tents to accommodate those in need.
- In Maungdaw, the Ministry of Border Affairs will construct 202 shelter units for the affected people. UNHCR will support the construction of 222 houses and will distribute some 400 tents for displaced families whose houses have been completely destroyed.
- UNHCR has distributed over 7,000 family kits (plastic sheets, mats, blankets, mosquito nets and kitchen sets) in Sittwe and Maungdaw. CARE has distributed some 1,000 family kits in Sittwe. Malteser has supported 26 IDP camps in Sittwe with over 1,500 NFIs.



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

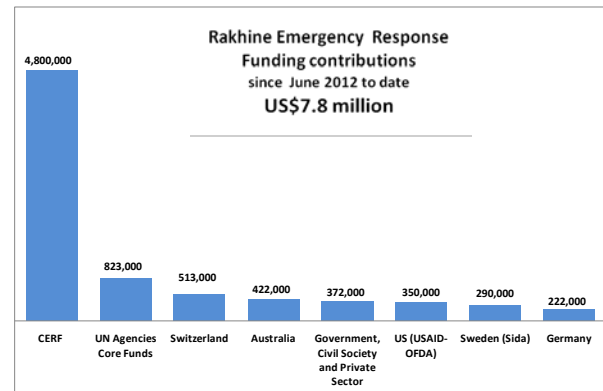
- Water, sanitation and hygiene issues continue to be a major concern as the monsoon rains worsened the already poor sanitation conditions in the camps.
- With support from UNICEF, DOH distributed additional bleaching powder and Water Guard to treat water sources and household drinking water in five IDP camps in the affected locations. DOH is also repairing damaged latrines in these camps with provision of pans/pipes and tarpaulin sheets. UNICEF, through a local partner, constructed 150 temporary sanitary latrines in 50 camps in the affected locations. UNICEF continues to support a local partner to carry out solid waste/drainage management at camp sites as well as to distribute lime powder, as necessary to prevent breeding of flies and rats.
- MRCS distributed over 247,400 liters of purified drinking water in and around Sittwe. MRCS also distributed 6,206 soaps and 12,400 packs of ORS to IDP camps in the affected locations.

IV. Coordination

- Coordination meetings continue to be held on a regular basis in Sittwe, the capital of Rakhine State.
- OCHA has organized a number of inter-agency coordination meetings over the past weeks, in support of the Government efforts in Yangon and Sittwe.
- Different sectors in Yangon continue to carry out sectoral coordination, based on the arrangements at Sittwe level.

V. Funding

- The Emergency Relief Coordinator, Valerie Amos, approved the allocation of US\$4.8 million from the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF). This allocation will enable five UN agencies and their partners to immediately boost assistance levels in sectors, including shelter/camp management, food, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), livelihood, NFIs, protection, nutrition, education and health.
- As of 13 August, Government sources indicated that donations from the Government, private companies, religious groups and individuals amounted to approximately US\$371,408.
- As of 13 August, funding allocations amount to US\$7.4 million, including the CERF allocation, in support of the relief operations in Rakhine State.



VI. Contact

Please contact: (Yangon) - Barbara Manzi, Head of Office, UN-OCHA, Email: manzi@un.org
To be added or deleted from this Sit Rep mailing list, please e-mail: ochamyanmar@un.org