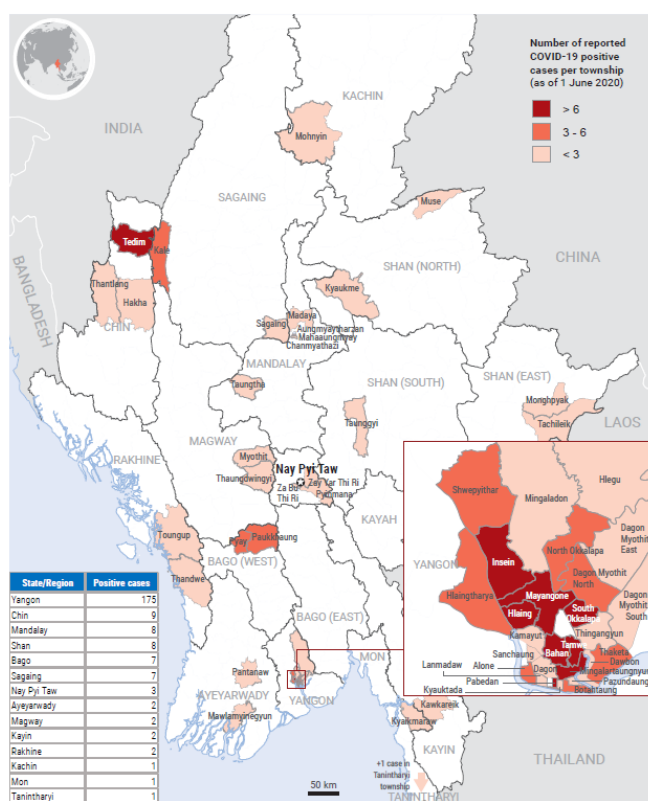


This report is produced by OCHA Myanmar in collaboration with Inter-Cluster Coordination Group, the Maungdaw Inter Agency Group and wider humanitarian partners.

HIGHLIGHTS

- After relatively a low rate of cases, **17 new cases were confirmed on 30 May alone, bringing the total to 228 cases, six fatalities and 138 recoveries** across the country. Two cases were confirmed in Rakhine State, while no cases have been confirmed in camps or sites for internally displaced people (IDP) or in communities affected by the conflict.
- **Return of migrants from bordering areas continues. More than 80,000 migrants returned** since March, according to initial estimates by IOM.
- New academic year to resume mid-July, with many government schools used as quarantine facilities to be vacated and prepared for classes.
- **Myanmar Government states that repatriation of Rohingya is likely to be delayed** after the first COVID-19 case in the refugee camp in Bangladesh's Cox's Bazar.
- **COVID-19 preparedness and response efforts continue** by government, ethnic health organizations and humanitarian partners across all conflict-affected areas and in quarantine facilities for returning migrants.
- **A total of US\$47.6 million has been contributed to the 2020 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP)**, including \$11.8 million to the HRP COVID-19 Addendum (18 per cent funding of revised total requirement of \$262.3 million) – [FTS](#)
- Union Parliament agrees to seek **US\$700 million loan from the International Monetary Fund** for COVID-19 response.



The boundaries and names shown on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.
 Creative date: 1 June 2020 Sources: Ministry of Health and Sports, as of 14:00, 30 April 2020 Feedback: ocha@myanmar.gov.mm www.ocha.org www.reliefweb.int

SITUATION OVERVIEW

228

Confirmed cases

6

Deaths

138

Recovered

4.9K

Persons tested

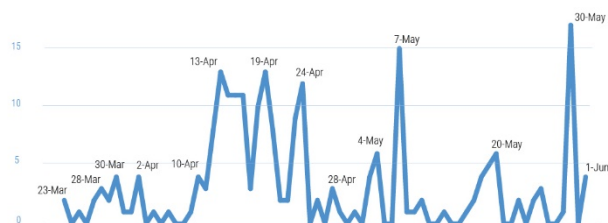
80K

Returning migrants



COVID-19 CONFIRMED CASES IN MYANMAR

of cases per day registered from 23 March to 1 June 2020



TOTAL CASES: As of 1 June, there are 228 confirmed cases in Myanmar. The infection rate, according to official figures, remained relatively low in the previous weeks. However, 17 new cases were confirmed on 30 May alone – the highest in a 24-hour period reported so far. Most of the cases were reported in Yangon Region. Of the 228 confirmed cases, 212 cases had been linked with contacts or travel histories. No local transmission has been reported between 17 May and 1 June, with all new cases reported among returnees from other countries during this period. As of 1 June, there has been no confirmed case in IDP camps or displacement sites. On 18 May, the first two cases were confirmed among

migrant returnees in Rakhine State, which is home to close to 80,000 people displaced by ongoing conflict, in addition to the 131,000 IDPs in camps established in 2012.

TESTING CAPACITY: In addition to five laboratories countrywide, a newly established COVID-19 testing laboratory is operational in Mandalay City since 27 May with two RT-PCR machines with individual capacity to test up to 240 specimens per 24 hours. As of 1 June, a total of 4,993 persons have been tested utilizing a total 27,077 test kits.

RETURN OF MIGRANT WORKERS: Returns continued to be reported, mainly from Thailand through the land border gates, while over 2,500 returns have been facilitated by relief flights. While returnees in relief flights were quarantined at facilities in Yangon on arrival, the returnees through border entries went to different regions and states, mostly to Bago and Magway regions.

- **Returns from Thailand:** Migrants registered with the Myanmar Labour Attaché could begin their journey home with “special travel permissions” by the Thai authorities, as of 22 May. Around 40,000 migrants had already registered and the number of migrants who returned through Mae Sot-Myawaddy border gate has increased since 23 May, with an average of 1,000 returns per day. A total of 6,600 migrants returned via the Mae Sot-Myawaddy border gate between 1 and 27 May. Additionally, a total of 335 migrants have returned through the Ranong-Kawthoung border gate, as of 26 May. While all returnees are required to undertake testing at the border gates, most have been transported to various states/regions for testing and for quarantine in designated facilities. More returns are likely to occur as the authorities in the two countries plan to reopen other border entries in Shan and Mon states. Meanwhile, re-migration to Thailand may also occur at the end of June. So far, around 65,600 migrants have expressed their intention to return to Thailand once the border and key industries reopen. The Thai Ministry of Interior issued a visual overview of re-migration procedures, which require a “fit-to-travel” certificate, a COVID-19 test, a written consent form authorizing 14-days quarantine upon arrival, and health insurance covering at least US\$100,000 for COVID-19 treatment.
- **Returns from China:** A total of 21,191 migrants returned from China between 16 April and 21 May, according to the latest figures by [IOM](#). The major entry points were in Kachin and Shan states, with most returns in May occurring through Nan Taw, Chin Shwe Haw and Mongla border crossings in Shan State. No major large-scale returns occurred during the reporting period, with about 240 returnees arriving through border gates in Muse and Laukkaing townships of northern Shan during this period.
- **Quarantine facilities:** As of 30 May, close to 10,000 quarantine facilities were operational across the country hosting over 51,250 returnees. In conflict-affected areas, some 360 facilities host over 4,000 people in Shan, some 670 facilities host over 5,600 people in Kachin, over 190 facilities host over 2,000 people in Kayin and close to 740 facilities host nearly 3,800 people in Rakhine. The Government is planning to resume new academic year mid-July, with many schools used to date as quarantine facilities to be prepared to welcome students.

IMPACT ON LIVELIHOODS: The World Bank is predicting a decline in economic growth in Myanmar, down from 6.3 per cent to 2 or 3 per cent in the 2019-2020 fiscal year, with a severe impact of COVID-19 outbreak on livelihoods and income generation. Casual laborers have been struggling to obtain jobs while movement restrictions have limited access to livelihoods, including in and around displacement sites. The decline in remittances from Myanmar migrants abroad is also expected to impact the local economy.

The prices for commodities remain volatile. According to the Market Monitor by the World Food Programme (WFP) in May, the average retail price of rice decreased by 11 per cent across areas surveyed. Following a spike in April, the price of pulses decreased by 10 per cent. In addition, the price of oil decreased by 4 per cent and salt by 8 per cent, compared to April. Overall, the decline in the price of rice and main food commodities was likely due to purchasing behavior normalizing after the Thingyan Holiday, and an apparent end to COVID-related panic shopping.

There are also concerns regarding little to no prospects for employment in Myanmar for returning migrants. Rakhine, Kachin, Chin, Kayin and northern Shan, as well as Yangon, have already been on the list of the government’s

priority for response on livelihoods, due to underlying vulnerabilities. Nevertheless, it is likely that those already vulnerable are also those most likely to be most affected by COVID-19.

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and WFP are carrying out a rapid assessment, which will look into COVID-19's impact on livelihoods, food security, food supply chains, prices and agricultural inputs flow. The assessment will start early June and target 2,100 households, 250 retailers and 130 agriculture inputs traders in seven states and regions (Yangon region, Chin, Kayin, Mon, Shan, Kachin and Rakhine states).

PREVENTION AND RESPONSE

GOVERNMENT PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE: Between 15 and 27 May, the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement (MoSWRR), in collaboration with relevant authorities and national and international partners, distributed over 74,000 personal protective equipment (PPE) items, 42,000 soap bars, 80 washbasins, 100 thermometers, 40 megaphones, 40 flash drives with audio files of COVID-19 prevention information, 17 vinyl posters and 1,200 lime powder bags to displacement camps and sites in Kachin, Chin, Rakhine and northern Shan (see *Annex Table 1*). Additionally, on 19 May, MoSWRR provided cash assistance to pregnant women and children under 2-years-old in 54 IDP camps in Kachin and Shan states. A total of 1,400 vulnerable persons received 30,000 Myanmar kyats (approximately US\$20) per person. This is a one-time support programme for the most vulnerable people provided during the pandemic. Similarly, with the financial support from the Livelihoods and Food Security Fund (LIFT), MoSWRR will be providing 30,000 Myanmar kyats each to over 441,700 women and elderly people in most vulnerable areas, including government-recognized IDP camps in Rakhine, Chin, Kayin, Kachin and Shan states, starting in June.

COORDINATION WITH ETHNIC ARMED ORGANIZATIONS: The government Committee for Coordination and Cooperation with Ethnic Armed Organizations (EAOs) for Prevention, Control and Treatment of COVID-19 continues online meetings with EAOs. On 25 May, the Government and the Karen National Union (KNU) agreed that KNU would resume running health checkpoints on condition that administrators wear civilian clothes and are unarmed. On 26 May, the Government provided medical supplies for COVID-19 to 12 EAOs, including two non-signatories of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement. Similarly, Myanmar Armed Forces (MAF) donated medical supplies, including 44,500 PPE items and 300 bottles of hand sanitizer, to the Women's Affairs Federation under the United Wa State Army and some 22,750 PPE items and 150 bottles of hand sanitizer to the Kachin Independence Army (KIA). The KIA has reportedly pledged to collaborate with MAF to fight COVID-19. The MAF also met three EAOs – KNU, the Shan State Progressive Party/Shan State Army (North) and the Karenni National Progressive Party/ Karenni Army – and discussed cooperation to fight COVID-19.

PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE BY HUMANITARIAN PARTNERS: While sustaining life-saving humanitarian operations, humanitarian organizations continue to ramp up COVID-19 prevention and response measures for the vulnerable communities and returning migrants through continued coordination with the government and relevant authorities. Find below the summary of ongoing/planned COVID-19 response in camps and camp-like settings by clusters. Broader efforts, including risk communication and community engagement (RCCE) are in Annex Table 2.

Health

- In Chin, Kachin, Kayin, northern Shan and Rakhine, the health partners continue RCCE activities and provide capacity building, psychosocial support, laboratory samples transportation, referral of suspected cases and operational costs to quarantine centers. In addition, the partners supported the MoHS, non-government-controlled area (NGCA) health authority and ethnic health organizations with PPEs, gloves, infrared thermometers, surgical masks, N95 masks, goggles, gowns, hand sanitizers, soaps, chlorine powder and bleaching powder, pamphlets and posters. In Kayah, the partners provided two sets of Oximeter to Loikaw General Hospital.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

- In Rakhine, the partners have supported 16,440 individuals in two protracted Rohingya IDP camps in Sittwe and another one in Pauktaw, 740 individuals in two new displacement sites, 49,130 individuals in nearly 50 public areas and 90 villages, 105 individuals in two quarantine centres throughout eight townships. In Kachin, sector partners have set up handwashing stations as well as distributed soap, toothbrushes and toothpaste, and 20-litre water bottles to 4,400 individuals in over 220 quarantine facilities across 13 townships. In Kayah, over 300 washbasins have been installed in quarantine facilities in all seven townships. Nearly 30 quarantine facilities in seven townships have been provided with WASH materials. In June, over 90 schools are expected to receive wash basins, COVID-19 awareness posters and hygiene kits.

Protection

- Nationally, the Myanmar Inter-Agency case management taskforce launched two **guidance notes for frontline health professionals and child protection practitioners**. In Rakhine, life-saving Gender-Based Violence (GBV) case management, small-scale psychosocial support and a GBV safety audit are ongoing. In northern Shan, protection monitoring continues remotely through phone calls with protection focal points in IDP camps. The provision of GBV case management, small-scale psychosocial support, support in safe house for GBV survivors is ongoing. Some 134 case management kits were distributed to IDP children in two locations in Sittwe. The team is continuously following up with 123 children who were released from or completed/left the quarantine facility and will provide case management support for those who are at risk of or are experiencing child protection risks including abuse, neglect, exploitation and violence.
- In Kachin, **protection monitoring and individual assistance to IDPs** have been made available in 115 out of 138 sites. Referral pathways have been updated and shared while protection monitoring is being done remotely. The monitoring has been expanded to key villages of origin, where largest temporary migrant returns have been reported. Over 400 dignity kits were distributed by GBV actors to women and girls at quarantine centres. In Kayin, GBV working group organized trainings on GBV concepts and referral pathways to around 50 youth volunteers working at the quarantine centres. Awareness raising activities on sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) and GBV in NGCA are resuming.

Food Security

- In Rakhine, **emergency relief activities are ongoing** through various partners, and the cluster partners provided 2,180 metric tons of general food basket and fortified blended food for nutritionally 95,000 vulnerable people in the northern parts of Rakhine. In Chin, 13.5kg of rice and 10,000 cash assistance to individuals were distributed to 3,700 people. In Kachin, cash assistance will be provided to pregnant women and children under 2 years from IDP camps under Maternal and Child Cash Transfer (MCCT) programme, spearheaded by MoSWRR, in cooperation with the General Administration Department (GAD), WFP and partners.

Nutrition

- In Rakhine, essential nutrition services are being provided without interruption. In Chin, management and treatment of children with severe acute malnutrition (SAM) and moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) are ongoing. In northern Shan, screening and referral of children with SAM with complication is ongoing. Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition (IMAM) roll-out will be launched. In Kachin, partners continue to provide minimal nutrition services, including growth monitoring activities. In Kayin, over 310 children from Ei Tu Hta IDP camp in Hpapun Township received nutrition support through cash transfer. In Kayah, 150 vulnerable families are supported with 12 pyis of rice (a traditional unit of measurement in Myanmar equivalent to 2.12 kilogrammes) in Loikaw, Shadaw, Demoso and three sacks of rice for individuals in five quarantine centres in Loikaw, Demoso and Shadaw townships.

Education

- In Rakhine, the sector partners continue to provide support to volunteer teachers in IDP camps, including distribution of hygiene kits. In northern Shan and Kachin, partners plan to reach children and teachers with continuing education and training opportunities when the academic year begins mid-July.

Shelter, Non-Food Items, Camp Coordination and Camp Management

- In Rakhine, the partners have reached a total of 375,000 people in over 20 camps, 80 displacement sites, 80 Rohingya villages and additional 85 villages with COVID-19 RCCE materials. In Kachin, the partners provided the Kachin State COVID-29 Control and Emergency Response Committee and the Kachin State Health Department with material support. In Kayah, 600 beddings were distributed to 600 people in quarantine centres through the State Government.

Logistics

- Two **humanitarian flights**, chartered by WFP, arrived at the Yangon International Airport during the reporting period, bringing in humanitarian workers and vital medical supplies, including PPE items, to support the government's COVID-19 response. The flight service will link Yangon with Kuala Lumpur on a weekly basis.

MAUNGDAW INTER AGENCY GROUP

- The Maungdaw Inter Agency Group (MIAG) continued to strengthen prevention activities and operational response in support of the Government and WHO. Response efforts are closely coordinated with the Red Cross Movement. UNHCR and UNFPA, on behalf of MIAG, participate in the COVID-19 taskforce, based in Sittwe, to ensure synergy and information sharing across the response in Rakhine.
- Humanitarian partners are complementing MoHS activities, including through the printing and distribution of IEC materials. Additional awareness raising has been incorporated into regular programmes, including dissemination of key messages during food distribution with staff members also delivering relevant messages through small group awareness sessions at a community level.
- WASH activities are also taking place, including the distribution of hygiene items, additional soap and hand sanitizer in displacement sites and in communities. Hygiene and other materials have also been provided by different actors to relevant authorities. The installation of handwashing/water points, and latrines is also underway in IDP and quarantine/isolation sites as well as busy areas, e.g. markets.

RESPONSE TO RETURNING MIGRANT WORKERS

- IOM and civil society organization (CSO) partners distributed hygiene kits, PPE items and WASH consumables to quarantine facilities and health centres, reaching 8,710 returning migrants and members of migrant-sending communities in Chin State and Mandalay, Magway and Ayeyarwady regions.
- The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) installed 1,000 handwashing stations in Shan, 150 of which are installed at points of entry, checkpoints and night stop-over points supporting an estimated 12,000 migrants. UNICEF is also supporting the Shan State Government's Social Protection Committee, including collating and circulating data related to migrants to partners; as well as providing 210 Child Protection Kits to the Kayin, Mon and Tanintharyi Governments, 44 of which are being used to support migrants arriving through Myawaddy in May.
- The International Labour Organization (ILO) and its partners in Shan, Kayin and Mon states, as well as in Tanintharyi, Bago and Yangon regions, continued the distribution of IEC materials, masks, food and water to returning migrants and their families at points of entry and communities of origin. This support reached close to 370 returning migrants in Shan, including 120 migrants returning from China; 250 members of migrant-sending communities in Tanintharyi; and over 300 returning migrants in quarantine facilities in Bago. ILO assistance has reached close to 43,800 people.
- WFP is finalizing an operational plan to provide food assistance to returning migrants at Momauk and Waingmaw as per a request from the Kachin State Government. WFP and its partners have distributed one-time meal box to over 6,650 returning migrants who will undergo facility quarantine for 21 days at the Myawaddy border gate, as requested by the Kayin State Government. WFP also provided food assistance to

3,970 returning migrants in facility quarantine centers in Hpa-an and Myawaddy. To date, WFP distributed food assistance to 11,170 returning migrants.

- The UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) provided 500 sets of bedding and 175 sanitary kits for quarantine centres in Loikaw, Kayah State. In Kachin and the northern Shan, UNHCR is delivering material support to the Kachin State COVID-19 Control and Emergency Response Committee, including 220 plastic mats and 65 mosquito nets for quarantine facilities in Myitkyina Township. UNFPA is planning to support 3,500 dignity kits to migrant returnees, quarantined for 21 days.
- Rapid assessment will be done by partners within the South East Working Group (SEWG) for migrant returnees in June targeting to reach over 300 migrants and community leaders.

OPERATIONAL CHALLENGES

A number of challenges continue to delay humanitarian operations carried out by the sector partners in all conflict-affected areas, and/or areas where migrant returnees are hosted in quarantine. The following operational challenges reportedly remain unchanged:

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| • Additional security clearance requirement | • Closure of markets | • Unclear bureaucratic process |
| • Insecurity | • Stock shortage and limited supplies | • Internet shutdown |
| • Telecommunication challenge | • Increased material cost | • Restrictions on border crossing |
| • Access/movement restrictions | • Logistic constraints | • Lack of transportation support |

IMPACT ON ONGOING HUMANITARIAN OPERATIONS



- **In Kachin**, protection monitoring is undertaken remotely through community focal points. The partners are brainstorming how to extend monitoring process for a better coverage in return locations. Likewise, they are discussing with mine actors on how to extend mine risk education in return locations. Large scale GBV prevention activities are suspended. Only lifesaving interventions are available.
- **In Rakhine and Kayin**, large-scale GBV prevention activities and large-scale awareness/outreach sessions are suspended as per the control measures.
- **In Shan (north)**, protection monitoring is undertaken remotely through community focal points. GBV prevention activities and large-scale awareness/outreach sessions are suspended as per the control measures.



- **In Kachin**, the cluster partners re-adjusted ongoing programmes in community quarantine facilities in GCA and NGCA as well as the China-Myanmar border entry point. The partners require to identify the criticality of existing program to prioritize the activities. Most of the activities are suspended until further notice.
- **In Rakhine**, only life-saving programs in camps and host villages are sustained. Regular communication with camp staff is on-going, and many WASH partners are working remotely.



- In all states, EiE partners will distribute learning materials for home-based learning to children. At the same time, as schools are expected to reopen within the next two months, partners will need to prepare schools to create safe learning conditions that prevents any spread of COVID-19.
- **In Kayah**, 10 middle/high schools, six institutes and one university are utilized as quarantine facilities.



- **In Kachin**, WFP plans to provide 100 per cent food rations to all IDPs.
- **In Rakhine**, a consolidation of food rations for May and June are being made to distribute to reduce the frequency of contact.
- **In Kachin, Rakhine and Shan (north)**, intensity of mobile clinics and routine services in Humanitarian Response Plan target areas is reduced.

HEALTH**NUTRITION****SHELTER,
NFI/CCCM**

- **In Chin and Kayin**, implementation of some activities is modified to observe public health infection prevention and control measures.
- **In Kayah**, improved coordination in response among agencies and the Government Health Department/State COVID-19 Control and Response Committee is required.
- **In Kachin**, community nutrition activities, such as cooking demonstration and nutrition awareness sessions have been suspended. Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition (IMAM) training and multisectoral national plan of action on nutrition (MSN-PAN) initial activities are postponed.
- **In Rakhine**, growth monitoring, micronutrient supplementation, IYCF counselling and IMAM State level Training of Trainers are postponed. Technical support for nutrition related training for the Township Health Department, mother to mother support group, support for community health workers for active case finding are suspended.
- **In Shan (north)**, most activities are on hold in the government facilities until end of May.
- **In Chin**, routine interventions have been suspended. However, collaboration between the state nutrition team and partners are sustained through telecommunications. The Township Health Department is going to provide essential nutrition services in coordination with volunteers in nine IDP camps.
- **In Kayin**, the planned community nutrition activities in Hlaingbwe and Hpapun are on hold.
- Most of the shelter activities in conflict-affected states have been postponed, whereas camp coordination and camp management/site monitoring is being carried out remotely. Partners receive fewer travel authorization approvals due to a change in government policy.

PLANNING, RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

Global HRP: The second iteration of the GHRP was launched on 7 May, with an appeal of US\$6.7 billion to contain the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, to decrease the deterioration of social cohesion and livelihoods, as well as to protect and assist those vulnerable to the pandemic. Response priorities will be mobilized through a Country Preparedness and Response Plan, complementary to the government's response. Humanitarian actors are reviewing their service delivery modalities to ensure they can continue life-saving assistance.

COVID-19 Addendum to the 2020 HRP: The Addendum aims to provide support to the existing HRP targeted people (850,000) and additional 50,000 returning migrant workers. US\$262.3 million is required in 2020 for humanitarian response, including a further \$46 million for COVID-19 preparedness and response to address the needs of IDPs, vulnerable communities and returning migrants. The Addendum can be found [here](#) (page 34).

The Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) has allocated US\$95 million to the COVID-19 response globally, including a \$20 million allocation (9 April) to WFP for global logistics and medical evacuation services. WHO and UNICEF headquarters have apportioned US\$500,000 and US\$749,000 respectively of the total allocation they received to their Myanmar operations.

Myanmar Humanitarian Fund (MHF), has allocated US\$4 million through a First Reserve Allocation to support a coordinated response to COVID-19 related actions in humanitarian settings, in particular in Chin, Kachin, Kayin, Rakhine and Shan states. Ten projects have been selected for funding.

2020 HRP Funding Update: The Myanmar 2020 HRP is 18 per cent funded, US\$47.6 million of the revised requirement of \$262.3, with \$26 million contributions to the COVID-19 Addendum or 26 per cent of total funding received, according to the [Financial Tracking Services](#).

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