

Myanmar: Floods Emergency

Situation Report No. 1 (as of 5 August 2015)



This report is produced by OCHA Myanmar in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It was issued by OCHA. It covers the period from 31 July to 5 August (20:00, UTC+6:30). The next report will be issued on or around 8 August.

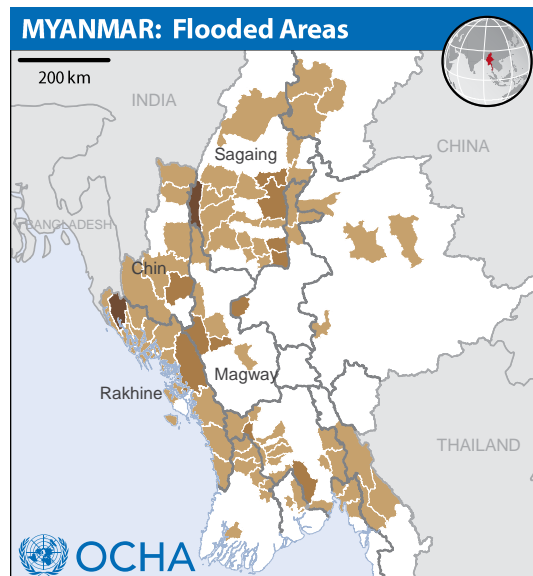
Highlights

- Massive floods and strong winds have affected more than 259,000 people across 12 states and regions.
- On 4 August, the Government of Myanmar welcomed international assistance for the flood response.
- Floods have inundated more than 1 million acres of farmland. Damage to crops and arable land is likely to disrupt the planting season.
- Priority needs include food, water and sanitation, access to health care, and provision or repair of shelter.
- Continued rainfall, combined with flood waters moving southward, put additional areas at risk of inundation.

259,000
affected people

69
deaths in June, July,
August

39,474
accumulative
number of displaced
households



Map Sources: RRD, OCHA, MIMU
The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Map created on 5 Aug. 2015

Situation Overview

On 30 July, Cyclone Komen made landfall in Bangladesh bringing strong winds and additional heavy rains to Myanmar, which resulted in a significant expansion of monsoonal flood waters. On 31 July, the President declared Chin and Rakhine states, and Magway and Sagaing regions as natural disaster zones. Other areas, including Bago, are also severely affected, as flood waters from the north move southward. On 4 August, the Government of Myanmar welcomed international assistance for the flood response.

As of 4 August, the Government's Relief and Resettlement Department (RRD) reports that 69 people have been killed and over 259,000 people, including 88,000 children, have been affected across 12 of Myanmar's 14 states and regions since the onset of the rains in June. This includes a cumulative number of 39,474 households across Myanmar, which have been or remain temporarily displaced. Assessments continue to provide and validate information. Population figures are changing daily, as some people are returning to their homes and places of origin, while others are newly displaced as flood waters move southward to other parts of the country. Floods have inundated more than 1 million acres of farmland, with some 520,000 acres reportedly damaged. Damage to crops and arable land is likely to disrupt the planting season and pose a risk to long-term food security.

The Government is leading the response, facilitating evacuations, conducting search and rescue operations, removing debris, and providing food, relief items, reconstruction material and cash assistance to affected people. Local authorities, the military, as well as the Myanmar Red Cross Society, civil society organizations, individual donations, and the private sector are playing an important part in the response.

Initial rapid assessments are underway in the most severely affected areas, including in Rakhine, Magway and Sagaing. Food, shelter, water and sanitation, and access to emergency health care are most needed. Hakah Town in Chin State has been inaccessible due to landslides blocking the road, but reports indicate that food and medicines are the most urgent needs. Other areas, including Mrauk-U and Minbya in Rakhine State, remain difficult to access due to flood waters and disruption of transportation systems. The road is due to be cleared in the next couple of days which will allow access for assessment and response teams.

+ For more information, see “background on the crisis” at the end of the report

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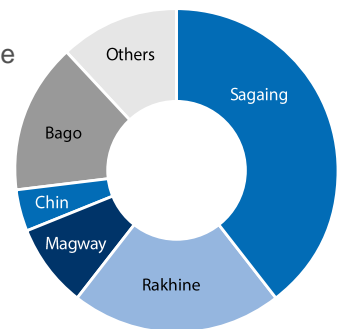
Coordination Saves Lives

The Food Security Sector estimates that 208,000 people are in need of immediate food assistance. Over 82,000 people have already benefited from food distributions in Bago, Magway, Mon, Rakhine and Sagaing. WASH experts estimate that over 80 per cent of household latrines and over 90 per cent of wells need repair, replacement or cleaning. The WASH Cluster and partners has already distributed over 620,000 water treatment tablets across all affected areas.

According to the Rakhine State Government, Buthidaung, Kyauktaw, Minbya, Maungdaw and Mrauk-Oo are the most severely affected areas in Rakhine State. While Hakah remains severely affected by floods and landslides, the situation is reported to be normalizing in Paletwa Township, with water levels receding and people returning to their homes. In Magway, two of the worst affected townships are Pwintbyu and Sidoktaya. According to RRD, Kale is the worst hit township in Sagaing, with some 70,000 people affected. Over 41,700 people are affected in Bago Region, where 69 evacuation centres have been set up.

Rains and thunderstorms are expected to continue over the coming days across affected areas. On 4 August, the Government issued a flood warning for Ayayerwady Region.

Ratio of flood affected people by state and region



Funding

According to the Financial Tracking Service on 5 August (18:00, UTC+6:30), Japan has contributed US\$164,000 towards the floods response. Other Member States, donors and the private sector have indicated their intention to allocate resources towards the emergency.

The Myanmar Emergency Response Fund (ERF) has activated the "Reserve Allocation" to support humanitarian partners, in particular NGOs, to respond to urgent and/or unforeseen requirements.

The UN in Myanmar has submitted a proposal to the UN Central Emergency Response Fund to jump start critical response activities, including in the areas of Food, Health, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene, Shelter, Camp Coordination and Camp Management, as well as Protection Services, including Child Protection and Gender Based Violence.

All humanitarian partners, including donors and recipient agencies, are encouraged to inform OCHA's Financial Tracking Service (FTS - <http://fts.unocha.org>) of cash and in-kind contributions by e-mailing: fts@un.org All in-kind donations should be reported and tracked via logik@un.org.

Humanitarian Response

Education

Needs:

- Initial joint rapid assessments by local authorities and Education Sector partners indicate that over 800 education facilities in the four worst affected states and regions, including temporary learning spaces, are damaged by floods and/or used as shelter for affected people.
- Restoring access to education services through provision of roofing iron sheets for the immediate repair of damaged buildings is the key priority.
- Provision of teaching learning materials to replace materials lost or damaged is also critical.

800+
education facilities
affected by floods
(figures TBC by
assessments)

Response:

- Over 200 hygiene promotion posters have been printed and will be displayed in schools and temporary learning spaces in affected areas in Rakhine State.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Assessments in some severely affected areas have been hindered by lack of access due to damage to roads and other infrastructure.



Food Security

Needs:

- As of 4 August, 208,000 people are estimated to be in need of food assistance. The number of people in need is expected to grow as more assessment findings become available.

208,000
people in need of
immediate food
assistance

Response:

- As of 4 August, 82,000 people have been reached with food assistance in Bago, Magway, Mon, Rakhine and Sagaing. Distributions in other accessible areas are pending delivery of food currently in transit.
- Food distributions consist of a one-month food basket (rice, pulses, oil and salt) and/or a one-week ration of fortified high-energy biscuits, depending on the location and needs.

Gaps & Constraints:

- An estimated 126,000 flood affected people are still in need of food assistance.
- Lack of access to the worst hit areas in Chin and Rakhine has been a major obstacle for delivery and distribution of food. Many ground routes and waterways remain blocked.



Health

Needs:

- People across affected areas need critical health services. Many health facilities are inundated and patients have to be evacuated to safe grounds. In Buthidaung alone, 25 health posts, 6 regional health centres and 1 station hospital are damaged.
- Post trauma/rehabilitation care and psychosocial support is needed in some affected areas.

Response:

- The Government, the Myanmar Red Cross Society and other partners are providing support on treatment of the injured, medical supplies, mosquito nets and hygiene promotion affected states and regions.
- Partners have evacuated patients at the Maungdaw Township Hospital on 30 July and returned them on 2 August after the water level had decreased.
- Surveillance of acute diarrhoea has been established in Maungdaw, Rakhine State.

Gaps & Constraints:

- There are inadequate specialized and targeted health interventions to special needs groups such as pregnant mothers, delivering women and lactating mothers including neonatal health services.



Nutrition

Needs:

- Over 23,000 children under the age of five years are estimated to be affected by the floods. In addition, an estimated 9,500 pregnant and lactating women are affected (based on 259,000 people affected).
- The needs of children and women living in flood-affected areas in Rakhine State and Kachin, which are already part of the 2015 Humanitarian Response Plan, remain.

23,000+
children under 5 years
affected

Response:

- No nutrition support is being provided in flood-affected in addition to assistance already provided as part of the Humanitarian Response Plan in Rakhine and Kachin state. It is key that these activities are not interrupted to prevent deterioration in the situation for already vulnerable children.

Gaps & Constraints:

- There is a need for additional information on the nutrition situation in some flood affected areas where no nutrition organizations are currently operating. However, at this stage, severe gaps and urgent requirements for nutrition assistance are not anticipated.

**Needs:**

- In IDP camps in Sittwe Township, families whose shelters were destroyed are taking shelter in temporary learning spaces and other communal structures. Over-crowding and lack of separation between women and men and boys and girls is a concern. The lack of private spaces in evacuation sites has also been raised in Sagaing and is likely to be an issue in other affected areas.
- Assessments in the northern part of Rakhine and in Sagaing indicate a high need for distribution of dignity kits, containing sanitary napkins and underwear for women and girls.
- The majority of flood affected areas in Rakhine and Chin states are not currently covered by Family Tracing Services.
- Psycho-social support is needed for affected communities in the majority of affected townships.

890dignity kits distributed
in Sagaing and Kachin**Response:**

- Protection monitoring is taking place in flood-affected townships in the northern part of Rakhine State and in IDP camps in Minbya, Mrauk U and Kyauktaw, as well as in rural Sittwe.
- Family Tracing and Reunification services are being provided in Salin and Pwintbhyu townships in Sagaing, with 33 cases identified as of 3 August. Efforts to establish services in other affected townships are underway in coordination with township authorities.
- A total of 890 dignity kits have been distributed to flood affected women and girls in Sagaing and Kachin.
- In Rakhine, key messages targeting women and girls to mitigate the risk of gender-based violence will be broadcast by local radio.
- Medical commodities to support the particular needs of women and girls have been distributed to health clinics and hospitals to flood affected areas in Rakhine. Further commodities are currently being mobilized for transportation and distribution to Sagaing and Magway.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Determination of needs and gaps are part of the assessments currently under way.

**Shelter****Needs:**

- According to the Government, a cumulative number of over 39,000 households has been temporarily displaced across Myanmar. In Hakah, Chin State, over 6,600 people have been displaced in 13 evacuation sites, including schools, monasteries and community facilities.
- After conducting assessment in 24 reachable camps in Sittwe, Pauktaw and Myebon townships, a quarter of the temporary shelters were found to be damaged and more than 21,000 previously displaced people are affected.
- Joint assessments found that 7,330 houses have been damaged and 3,385 houses have been destroyed in Buthidaung and Rathedaung, Rakhine. In Pauktaw, Rakhine, assessments found extensive damage to schools. Houses in other townships in Rakhine State have also sustained damage.

3,385houses destroyed in
Buthidaung and
Rathedaung**Response:**

- Township Administration is leading the response at evacuation centres in Rakhine State. Sixteen of 130 evacuation centres remain open.
- Shelter agencies have distributed NFIs, including blankets, mats and buckets to 1,000 households in the northern part of Rakhine State.
- Private companies have distributed clothes and NFIs in Pwintbyu and Sidoktaya townships, Magway.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Information on shelter needs outside of previously existing camps in Rakhine, including in other parts of the state and other flood affected regions/states, remains limited. Assessments to determine needs are ongoing.
- Displacement figures are changing daily as some people return to their homes and places of origin. Others are newly displaced as flood waters move southward to other parts of the country.



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Needs:

- The Cluster is targeting 206,000 people with emergency water and sanitation interventions, including hygiene kits and hand washing with soap and gender friendly sanitation facilities.
- An estimated 131,000 people need access to adequate sanitation facilities in temporary evacuation sites, including schools and monasteries.
- With water and sanitation infrastructure affected by floods and landslides, there is an immediate risk of water borne diseases. In Rakhine State, communities need alternative water solutions as saline water has intruded pond water supplies.

620,000+
water treatment tablets
distributed

Response:

- The Government, MRCS and partners have distributed 17,000 water purification sachets covering 6,800 families in Kachin, 400,000 water treatment tablets covering over 26,600 people in Sagaing, and 220,000 water treatment tablets covering over 14,500 people families in Rakhine.
- In coordination with national media and other partners, radio stations started broadcasting key hygiene messages in Rakhine State and other affected states and regions.
- Partners started cleaning wells in Kachin, Sagaing, Magway, Chin and Rakhine. In Sagaing, partners target an initial number of 900 wells.
- Partners prepositioned 5 barrels of bleaching powder and 150 pans and pipes for latrines in Kachin. Along with the provision of 1,391 hygiene kits for nearly 7,000 people in Rakhine, partners mobilized over 4,350 hygiene kits for over 22,600 people in Sagaing.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Limited capacity of the partners and difficult road conditions constrain and delay the delivery of WASH supplies and services.
- Over 80 per cent (est. 30,000) of household latrines need repair or replacement. Over 90 per cent of water wells need repair and cleaning.



Logistics

Response:

- The Government and three private air companies have provided free transportation for food to areas accessible by air only.
- The Myanmar Military is using helicopters as well as navy ships to transport essential relief supplies to the hardest hits areas, including Rakhine State and Sagaing Region.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Access to many locations in Chin, Rakhine and Sagaing is hindered by high flood levels, impassable roads and large debris in rivers.

General Coordination

The Government is leading the response and has activated the national Emergency Operations Centre (EOC).

The UN and INGOs are working closely with the Government at both the national and state/regional levels. On 5 August, the Ministry of Social Welfare for Relief and Resettlement's EOC hosted a coordination meeting in Nay Pyi Taw with international organizations to ensure a coordinated and joint response to the current floods emergency.

The Relief and Resettlement Department has welcomed the offer of support from the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance (AHA Centre). AHA Centre is supporting the Government on information management.

Regular meetings of the Humanitarian Country Team are taking place in both Yangon and in Sittwe, Rakhine State. The sectors and clusters at meeting both at the Yangon and Sittwe levels to ensure effective coordination, including for the Food Security, Nutrition, Protection, WASH, Health, Shelter and Education sector/clusters. Sectors

are also coordinating closely with respective line Ministries. To support field level coordination in the most affected areas, humanitarian coordination will be strengthened in Sagaing and Magway regions.

From the onset of this emergency, the Government and humanitarian partners have implemented assessments across affected areas. The ICCG is working with the Government on adapting the Multi Cluster/Sector Initial Rapid Assessment (MIRA) methodology to the current context.

Background on the crisis

Heavy rains have caused floods and landslides in several parts of the country during the last two weeks of July. Cyclone Komen, that made landfall in Bangladesh on 30 July, has brought strong winds and heavy rains, resulting in floods and landslides in 12 states and regions in Myanmar. On 31 July, the President's Office announced natural disaster zones, including (1) Chin State, (2) Sagaing Region, (3) Magway Region and (4) Rakhine State.

For further information, please contact:

Pierre Péron, Public Information and Advocacy Officer, Tel: +95 9250 198 997, E-mail: peronp@un.org Twitter: @pierre_peron
Eva Modvig, Reports and Communications Officer, Tel: +95 (0) 9420 275 877, E-mail: modvig@un.org Twitter: @evamodvig
Helena Mazarro, Humanitarian Affairs Officer, Tel: +95 (0)9 425297268 , Email: mazarro@un.org