



Myanmar Humanitarian Situation Report



SITUATION IN NUMBERS

Date: 5 August 2015

Over 88,000 children

affected out of **about 259,000**
total affected population

(Government, Relief and Resettlement Department data),
August 5, 2015)

**Access to affected areas is
limited and the actual number of
affected people is likely to be
higher.**

UNICEF Appeal
US\$ 11.8 million

Highlights

- The Government of Myanmar is leading the response, and UNICEF is working with Myanmar authorities to assess the urgent needs and provide support.
- Information on numbers affected is still very limited as assessment teams have been unable to reach affected townships due to flooding, road blockages and landslides.
- The most urgent needs are for food, water, sanitation, shelter and access to emergency health care
- UNICEF has dispatched water purification tablets, hygiene kits, health supplies and is getting emergency messages out to communities through radio

Situation Overview

Torrential rains and strong winds have caused devastation in western Myanmar, affecting over 250,000 people, among them over 88,000 children. To date, over 50 deaths have been reported. Monsoonal flooding was exacerbated by the landfall of cyclone Komen on 30 July in near-by Bangladesh, bringing further rain and winds. Floods and landslides have destroyed roads, bridges, schools, and health facilities across the country and made large swaths of affected territory difficult to access, interrupting services and making needs assessments very difficult. The impact is even more severe because the flooding has hit those areas of Myanmar where vulnerability of populations already was highest, including the displaced populations in Rakhine. The four most affected states and regions have some of the the highest under 5 child mortality rates in the country, e.g. Chin at 90 per 1,000 live births and Magway at 105 per 1,000 live births. Further, collectively, Sagaing and Magway account for 22% of all under 5 child deaths in Myanmar (Census 2014).

Estimated Affected Population

(Estimates calculated based on figures from the Relief & Resettlement Department, Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief & Resettlement, August 5)

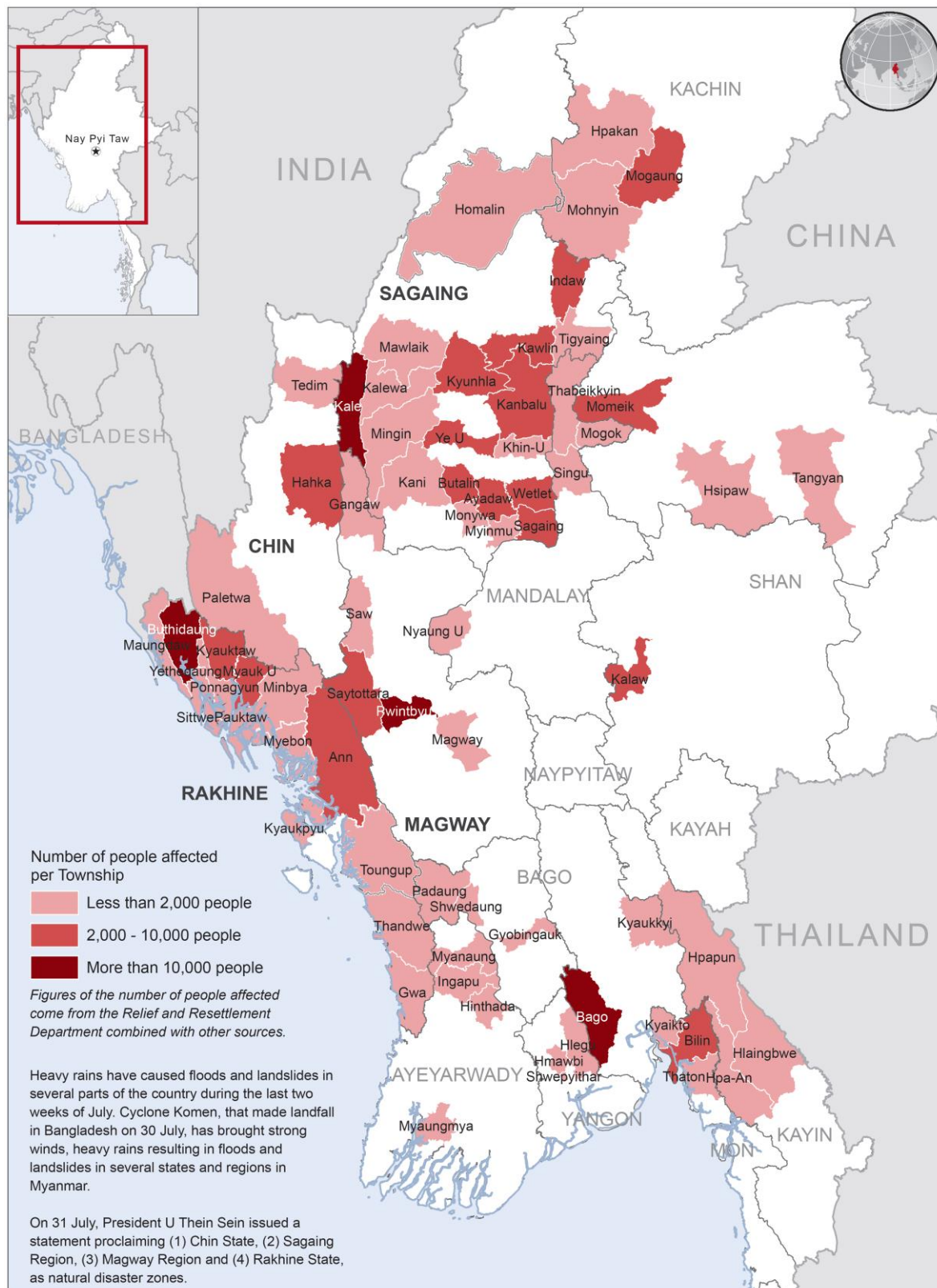
Start of humanitarian response: 31 July 2015 with the Government's announcement of natural disaster zones

	Total	Male	Female
Total Affected Population	259,000	124,812	134,188
Children Affected (Under 18)	88,371	42,586	45,785
Children Under Five	23,025	11,096	11,929
Pregnant women	4,921		
Lactating women	4,662		

The Government is leading the response and UNICEF is providing support to assess and respond to the needs of affected children and their families.

Humanitarian Needs

While a multi-sectoral rapid needs assessment is getting under-way, initial assessments coming in highlight food, shelter, water and sanitation, and access to emergency health care as the most immediate needs. Thousands of families are staying in temporary shelters often with inadequate water and sanitation services and where children are in need of psychosocial support. Many schools and health facilities have been damaged and are dysfunctional. The situation is compounded with schools being used as evacuation points and shelters. UNICEF has started to respond by providing water, sanitation and hygiene and health supplies and is facilitating transport to Government response teams and of relief goods.



Humanitarian leadership and coordination

The Government of Myanmar has taken a leadership role in the response and has started to provide food, building materials and essential relief items. On 31 July, the Government of Myanmar declared Rakhine, Chin, Sagaing and Magway as natural disaster zones. UNICEF is liaising closely with Government counterparts at all levels to provide all assistance possible. At the request of the Government, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) is coordinating support for a joint rapid assessment of needs in the affected areas which will provide a clearer picture of the situation of the affected population.

At national and sub-national levels, UNICEF is leading the water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) cluster, nutrition sector and child protection sub-sector, and co-leading the education sector together with Save the Children. These pre-existing structures are providing platforms to help ensure collaboration with UN agencies and international and national NGOs to contribute to a quick, efficient and effective response.

Humanitarian Strategy

Government leadership is evident in steering the response at union, state and region, and township levels, with the priority focus of restoring livelihoods and basic services as early as possible. Government has activated its Emergency Operations Centre to strengthen coordination and response. With Government at the helm, UNICEF is providing support through the sectors/clusters already in place and in coordination with all partners to ensure the survival, protection and well-being of all affected children.

UNICEF's response to date...

UNICEF had already been providing aid and assistance to populations affected by the monsoonal flooding over the past two weeks and has now scaled up its efforts in response to the deteriorating situation after Cyclone Komen. Through our already established field presence in Rakhine, Chin, and Mandalay (covering Magway and Sagaing), UNICEF was able to quickly liaise with State and Region governments and provide immediate relief from prepositioned health and WASH supplies. While assisting with coordination, UNICEF field staff are supporting rapid assessments with local authorities and actors in all locations. Further supplies are being prepositioned to scale up education and child protection support in the coming days.

...in Chin

- Landslides and floods have cut off the State Capital Hakha from the national power grid and blocked all transport. Chin is dependent on food supplies from other parts of Myanmar and is now facing severe scarcity of food, threatening to further exacerbate the already poor nutrition situation in the state.
- UNICEF's field team in Hakha has already provided financial support for WASH supplies, including for the construction of emergency latrines for over 4,000 displaced persons, and is responding to further requests for support from the State Health Department.
- UNICEF has convened inter-agency coordination meetings in Hakha and is liaising closely with the Chin State Government.

...in Rakhine

- Some townships in Rakhine are among the worst hit in the country and the affected population includes people living in isolated and remote villages as well as previously displaced people as a result of the communal violence in 2012. Rakhine is one of the poorest states in Myanmar and fares badly on many indicators of children's development. This disaster is a further shock for an already vulnerable population and will have long-term impacts on the livelihoods and well-being of families.
- Prior to the floods acute malnutrition was a serious concern among displaced and non-displaced populations in Rakhine with GAM prevalence as high as 21.4% in some areas (UN Humanitarian Response Plan, 2015). With access to livelihoods, safe water and food insecurity worsening as a result of the floods, UNICEF and partners will closely monitor the nutrition status of the affected populations over the coming months and provide additional support as needed.
- UNICEF is helping affected populations by providing water purification tablets, hygiene kits, and oral rehydration salts for nearly 7,000 people in worst affected areas through the State Health Department and providing transportation for Government health teams and civil society organisations to deliver their relief goods (food, drinking water and health and non-food items).
- Further supplies have been dispatched from Yangon but transportation is slowed down by blocked roads.
- UNICEF is coordinating closely with Government counterparts in the General Administration Department, the State Health Department and the State Department of Rural Development and all partners on the ground.

...in Magway

- In Magway, the worst affected areas are those on the banks of the Ayeyarwaddy River. The disaster hits an already vulnerable population, with the highest rate of infant and under 5 mortality in the country. As water levels are receding slowly, the situation of affected areas is slightly improving but the risk of water-borne diseases for women and children remains high as a result of contamination of water sources.
- Approximately 3500 hygiene kits, benefitting over 17,000 people, and water purification tablets will be dispatched in next days.
- UNICEF is liaising closely with the Regional Government and is providing on-going support to joint needs assessments with local authorities and partners.

...in Sagaing

- Already badly affected by monsoonal flooding, the impact of the cyclone has made Sagaing the region with the highest number of affected people.
- 400,000 water purification sachets have been provided to the Sagaing Region Government ensuring drinking water supply for over 52,000 people for 15 days.
- As requested by the Sagaing Region Government, UNICEF led an inter-agency assessment in upper Sagaing and continues to coordinate all support provided with the Sagaing authorities and national and international partners.

Communications for Development (C4D)

UNICEF has collaborated with the Ministry of Health and the NGO BBC Media Action to ensure that families across the country were reached with radio spots and lifeline messages on child protection and how avoid the risk of waterborne diseases such as diarrhoea, a major risk after water sources have been contaminated by floods. Further materials (booklets, posters and pamphlets) with key messages for families are being printed with UNICEF support for dissemination to all affected areas.

Media and External Communication

UNICEF issued a [press release](#) on 3 August 2015 which was distributed widely through the Myanmar Country Office media list, UNICEF Head Quarters, East Asia and the Pacific Regional Office, and National Committees. Key messages and Q&A have been prepared and disseminated. UNICEF is providing regular updates of the situation and on UNICEF's response through Facebook in Myanmar and English. A bank of photos is being developed.

Funding

Funding Requirements for a period of 3 months				
Appeal Sector	Requirements	Funds received*	Funding gap	
			\$	%
WASH	8,000,000	228,846	7,071,154	97%
Education	TBD	0	NA	NA
Health	2,500,000	0	2,500,000	100%
Nutrition	TBD	0	NA	NA
Child Protection	1,035,422	0	1,035,422	100%
Programme Support	311,950	0	311,950	100%
Total	11,847,372	228,846	10,918,526	92%

* 'Funds received' does not include pledges

Next SitRep: 09 August 2015

UNICEF Myanmar Media Centre: http://www.unicef.org/myanmar/media_24458.html

UNICEF Myanmar on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/unicefmyanmar>

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