



Myanmar CO Humanitarian Situation Report 7

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SITUATION IN NUMBERS

Highlights

- Flood risks will continue until the end of the monsoon season in mid-October, while October and November have historically seen the highest risk of cyclones in Myanmar.
- The full economic and social impact of the floods for non-displaced communities is still being assessed. Livelihoods have been severely impacted by the destruction of cropland and disruption of markets.
- UNICEF Myanmar's total 2015 Humanitarian Action for Children appeal of \$46.6 million includes US\$23.3 million for protracted emergencies in Rakhine and Kachin, and US\$23.3 million for the flood response.
- To date only 17 per cent of the required funds for urgent humanitarian assistance for children have been raised.

Over 550,000 children affected out of **over 1.6 million** total people affected.

(Government, Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, 6 September 2015)

This includes all known populations displaced at any point between July and August, as of 6 September.

**UNICEF Flood Appeal
US\$ 23.3 million***

*Funding needs are likely to increase as new assessment data comes in.

Situation Overview

At least 1.6 million people, including over 550,000 children, have been displaced by flooding and landslides across Myanmar. 12 out of Myanmar's 14 states and regions were affected by the floods, causing over US\$149 million in damage, and creating the country's largest scale disaster since Cyclone Nargis in 2008. Humanitarian needs remain pressing, especially for those in areas that continue to be difficult to reach as a result of damaged roads and bridges. Continued flood risks are likely until the end of the monsoon season in mid-October, compounded by potential cyclones which are most frequent in October and November. The vulnerability of children and families whose social and economic support systems have been impacted by the floods continues to be a major concern for UNICEF. All funding that has been received so far has been programmed, though only 17 per cent of funding needs are met, and UNICEF has no further resources for expanding programming at this point. In some areas regular development programmes have been adapted to provide support following the floods, but this is insufficient to meet the magnitude of needs across the country.

Estimated Affected Population

(Estimates calculated based on figures from the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, 6 September 2015)

	Total	Male	Female
Total Displaced Population	1,616,761	779,117	837,644
Children Affected (Under 18)	551,639	265,835	285,804
Children Under Five	143,730	69,264	74,467
School-Aged Children	407,909	196,571	211,338
Pregnant Women	30,718		
Lactating Women	29,102		

Humanitarian Needs

The recent flooding and landslides have displaced approximately 550,000 children over the course of July and August 2015. Recent assessments indicate that nearly half of surveyed locations do not have enough medical supplies, and almost 30 per cent have had health facilities partially or totally destroyed. Across all locations about 20 per cent of women/caretakers with children under age two are reporting trouble feeding their children, while this number reaches 40 per cent of women/caretakers in Rakhine State. Almost 800,000 acres of cropland have been destroyed, impacting livelihoods and increasing the likelihood of food insecurity, which could have negative impacts on the nutritional status of young children and pregnant and lactating women. The degree of flooding across such a wide area of the country has had major long-term implications for the sanitary environment in flooded villages. Many communities are likely to be permanently relocated as villages have been destroyed and future flood/landslide risk is high. These communities will require completely new water and sanitation infrastructure to be built for schools, health centres and households. In communities that are damaged but not destroyed improving sanitation is the major challenge as facilities have been critically damaged in households, schools and health centres and will have to be reconstructed. Around 500 learning facilities (schools, temporary learning spaces, etc.) have been destroyed and more than 3,000 damaged, including destruction of physical buildings and loss of furniture and school supplies that are essential for learning. It is estimated that around 400,000 school-age children are impacted. As a result of the trauma of the disaster, the displacement of families, and the disruption of economic and social support systems, a total of 270,000 children are estimated to require psychosocial support; based on global evidence, approximately 10 per cent of affected children have experienced some form of violence or abuse in any context, and the approximations increase depending on the severity of the situation. Children face a multitude of protection risks as a result of the flooding and the potential of parents to resort to negative coping mechanisms including risky migration, early marriage, child labour, and separation from family.

Humanitarian leadership and coordination

The Government of Myanmar has established an Emergency Operations Centre in the capital, Nay Pyi Taw, and is supporting recovery efforts through the Recovery Coordination Committee. UNICEF is continuing to support the humanitarian response and recovery needs of the population under the Government's leadership. Under the Government's request, the recently completed inter-agency Multiple Inter-Cluster/Sector Rapid Assessment is being finalised, and preliminary data is influencing the definition and focus of the response. Assessments were conducted in 850 locations in 34 townships, with staff deployed from UNICEF to assist in the assessment in each surveyed region. UNICEF additionally is leading assessments in Chin State, one of the most affected and difficult to reach areas due to the mountainous terrain and persistent risk of landslides. Just back from Hakha, the capital of Chin State, UNICEF WASH Cluster lead, describes the situation as follows: "We had to stop countless times as the road has been again cut off in many parts by recent landlides as heavy rains continue to fall. There is no flood there, like in the rest of the country, but the heavy monsoon has had a devastating effect on villages, communities and infrastructure. It took us 13 hours to reach the capital, from which many communities are totally cut off. I visited temporary camps set up by the Government, and where more than 5,000 people are sheltered. They live on very little aid from local communities, the Government, and the few international organisations present there such as WFP and UNICEF. Reaching these people is a daunting task for aid organisations because of the unstable and montaneous terrain". UNICEF is continuing to provide technical support in the devevelopment of the Government's Early Recovery plan. UNICEF is leading the WASH Cluster, Nutrition Sector and Child Protection Sub-Sector, as well as co-leading the Education Sector with Save the Children.

Humanitarian Strategy

The Government continues to lead the humanitarian response and planning for the initiation of early recovery efforts. Due to logistical constraints and the vastness of the area affected, the needs of people in many hard-to-reach areas have still not been fully assessed. The Government is continuing to clean and rebuild road and bridge infrastructure to reach these areas, and with UNICEF's support is beginning the rehabilitation of basic facilities in flood-affected villages. Health centres, schools and basic water and sanitation facilities that were damaged or destroyed in the floods will need to be rebuilt or repaired to ensure people have access to basic services, and psycho-social support systems will need to be re-established to help children and families cope with the effects of the disaster. Long-term economic and social effects of the floods and landslides will

impact affected populations for several months. Without early recovery support, the vulnerability of children and their families will increase, while the provision of livelihoods support will enable them to build up resilience and better withstand future hazards.

UNICEF's response to date...

In support of existing Government structures and plans, UNICEF has continued to play a key role in the coordination and initiation of emergency assistance to people displaced and affected by the floods and landslides. On the request of the Emergency Coordination Centre, a UNICEF staff-member was deployed to help centralise coordination efforts. UNICEF is engaging new partners and existing partners to expand coverage to flood-affected areas, and to ensure that children and their families receive support for both immediate relief and early recovery from the disaster. UNICEF is continuing to monitor the flood response through its existing Humanitarian Performance Monitoring system.

Health



Through current partnerships expanded with funding so far received for the flood response, UNICEF is planning to assist a total of 336,900 people in Rakhine, Sagaing and Magway, with the Myanmar Health Assistants Association (MHAA). Many of the people covered under on-going humanitarian action in Rakhine were affected by the floods, while those in Sagaing and Magway were not previously supported with humanitarian action. An additional caseload of newly displaced and flood-affected people will also thus be supported, with emphasis provided to reach children in previously under-served and difficult to reach areas, including the immunisation of 1,900 children under age one and nearly 9,000 pregnant or lactating women in Maungdaw Township. Support has been provided in other townships through the provision of health supplies for individual treatment and cold storage equipment for the safe handling of vaccines.

Nutrition



The Nutrition Sector has also expanded support through its partnership with MHAA in Rakhine State and Sagaing Region. In addition to nutritional support already provided to crisis-affected children (multi-micronutrient supplementation and treatment for severe acute malnutrition) and pregnant and lactating women (multi-micronutrient supplementation and feeding counselling), the expanded partnership to incorporate flood-affected populations is targeting additional 9,650 children aged 6-59 months and 4,500 pregnant and lactating women. Nutrition partners are continuing to monitor the nutrition situation to understand if the floods, and subsequent destruction of crops and potentially lower food availability, are having an impact on the nutritional status of vulnerable populations.

WASH



As lead of the WASH Cluster, UNICEF has leveraged strong relationships with partners throughout flood-affected areas to ensure a coordinated approach to the provision, rehabilitation and maintenance of water and sanitation infrastructure, as well as support for hygiene needs to prevent the spread of water- and food-borne diseases. With available funding, UNICEF has so far distributed or plans to distribute over 26,800 hygiene kits to approximately 134,000 people across Rakhine, Sagaing, Magway, Chin and Ayeyarwaddy. UNICEF is also providing support in the rehabilitation efforts of the Government to consider the building and rehabilitation of WASH infrastructure for schools that is resilient to future potential natural hazards, including floods and cyclones. With technical support from UNICEF, the Government and partners have finished draining all those contaminated ponds in Rakhine State that could be drained to ensure refilling before the dry season. Rehabilitation works to improve water quality and reduce vulnerability to future floods is ongoing. WASH partners are working on a contingency plan in case of water scarcity during the approaching dry season (mid-October to May).

Education



In areas where UNICEF had on-going partnerships for humanitarian support in communities affected by communal-violence, partners have continued repairing temporary learning spaces that were damaged in the floods, reaching about 12,000 children. UNICEF has so far dispatched essential education supplies, including five school tents, to reach approximately

22,500 flood-affected children in Magway, Sagaing, Chin, and plans to distribute more education supplies in Rakhine to support students/schools in severely affected townships. UNICEF is closely liaising with education partners to leverage more resources and coordinate sector efforts to support the Government to reconstruct/rehabilitate damaged schools across the affected states/regions, with continued support to the Government to develop school safety standards to make schools more child-friendly/hazard-resilient and review school construction practices to increase resilience in future. Even in areas where schools reopened, many schools affected by the floods are now using a shift system to host all children in the remaining classrooms, meaning that children are losing effective learning time. In addition, it has been noted in several locations that a number of children are still not back to school because they cannot adapt to the new timetable or they have to support their family.

Child Protection



Psychosocial support needs remain high, especially in areas where new flash floods have caused further disruption to recovery. UNICEF has established or expanded partnerships with both new and on-going partners in the most hard-hit states and regions. With funding received to date, a total of 42 child-friendly spaces are planned, and 28 mobile teams are set to deploy to address child protection needs. In total, approximately 10,500 children will be provided with safe places for socialising, learning and play, and 33,500 children will be covered by mobile protection teams. Additionally, this week UNICEF is coordinating a visit from Clowns without Borders to provide much needed recreational entertainment for children displaced by both pre-flood communal violence in the state, as well as for children displaced by the floods. Child Protection key messages continue to be broadcast nationwide and are being actively distributed through psycho-social support interventions. Attempted cases of trafficking of children have successfully been prevented in Magway by a sensitized community which alerted Child Protection actors.

Funding*

UNICEF has called for US\$23.3 million to fund urgent humanitarian assistance for children affected by the Myanmar floods, however to date only 17 per cent of the required funds have been raised. All funding that has been received so far has been programmed, and UNICEF has no further resources for expanding programming to meet the magnitude of needs across the country.

UNICEF Myanmar is working to leverage resources through a number of channels including a request for additional internal resources; through existing multi-donor funds; and through negotiations with donor governments. UNICEF National Committees have also been approached, however there have been limited contributions except from Japan and UK National Committees.

Funding requirements for a period of 6 months				
Appeal Sector	Requirements	Funds received (not incl. pledges)	Funding gap	
			\$	%
Health	6,687,000	478,515	6,208,485	93%
Nutrition	1,473,000	0	1,473,000	100%
WASH	10,000,000	2,746,587	7,253,413	73%
Education	1,920,000	308,407	1,611,593	84%
Child Protection	1,100,000	386,493	713,507	65%
Cross-Sectorial Technical Assistance	2,120,000	39,969	2,080,031	98%
Total	23,300,000	3,959,971	19,340,029	83%

*Funding requirements are subject to change as the situation is evolving and more comprehensive assessments of the needs of affected populations become available. The UNICEF Myanmar Flood Appeal of US\$23.3 million is part of the total UNICEF Myanmar Humanitarian Action for Children Appeal of \$46.6 million for 2015, and incorporated into the inter-agency Initial Flood Response Plan Appeal of US\$75.5 million.

Next SitRep: 18 September 2015

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