



# Myanmar CO Humanitarian Situation Report 3

Issued on 12 August 2015



## SITUATION IN NUMBERS

## Highlights

- With the Government of Myanmar continuing to lead the response, UNICEF has already provided immediate relief and support to over 60,000 affected children across the country.
- Water levels are receding in the areas initially affected allowing some populations to return; but as rainfall continues and waters move toward the delta, populations downstream are still at risk.
- Immediate humanitarian needs remain acute, and the Government of Myanmar and humanitarian actors are continuing humanitarian relief operations and simultaneously planning for longer-term recovery support.
- UNICEF is appealing for funds of US\$9.4 million to support response and early recovery over the coming six months to ensure that children are able to thrive despite the impact of the disaster.

**Nearly 390,000** children affected out of **over 1.1 million** total people affected.

(Government, National Natural Disaster Management Committee data, 11 August 2015)

**This includes all known affected populations from July and August, as of 11 August.**

**UNICEF Appeal**  
**US\$ 9.4 million\***

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

## Situation Overview

Torrential rains since 16 July have wrought widespread devastation to children and families across 12 of Myanmar's 14 states and regions. Floods and landslides caused by weeks of monsoon rains, were exacerbated by Cyclone Komen, which made landfall in neighbouring Bangladesh on 30 July. As of 11 August, at least 103 people have been killed and over 1.1 million have been affected across the country, among them over 380,000 children. The number of affected people reported by the Government has doubled since figures reported on August 7, as flood waters continue to move downstream inundating new areas in Bago and Ayeyarwaddy regions, and continued rainfall and consequent flooding is possible in the coming weeks. Some of the most vulnerable people in the country, accounting for 49% of the nation's poor, live in the six most affected states and regions, four of which have been declared natural disaster zones by the Government (Chin, Rakhine, Sagaing, and Magway).

### Estimated Affected Population

(Estimates calculated based on figures from the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief & Resettlement, 11 August 2015)

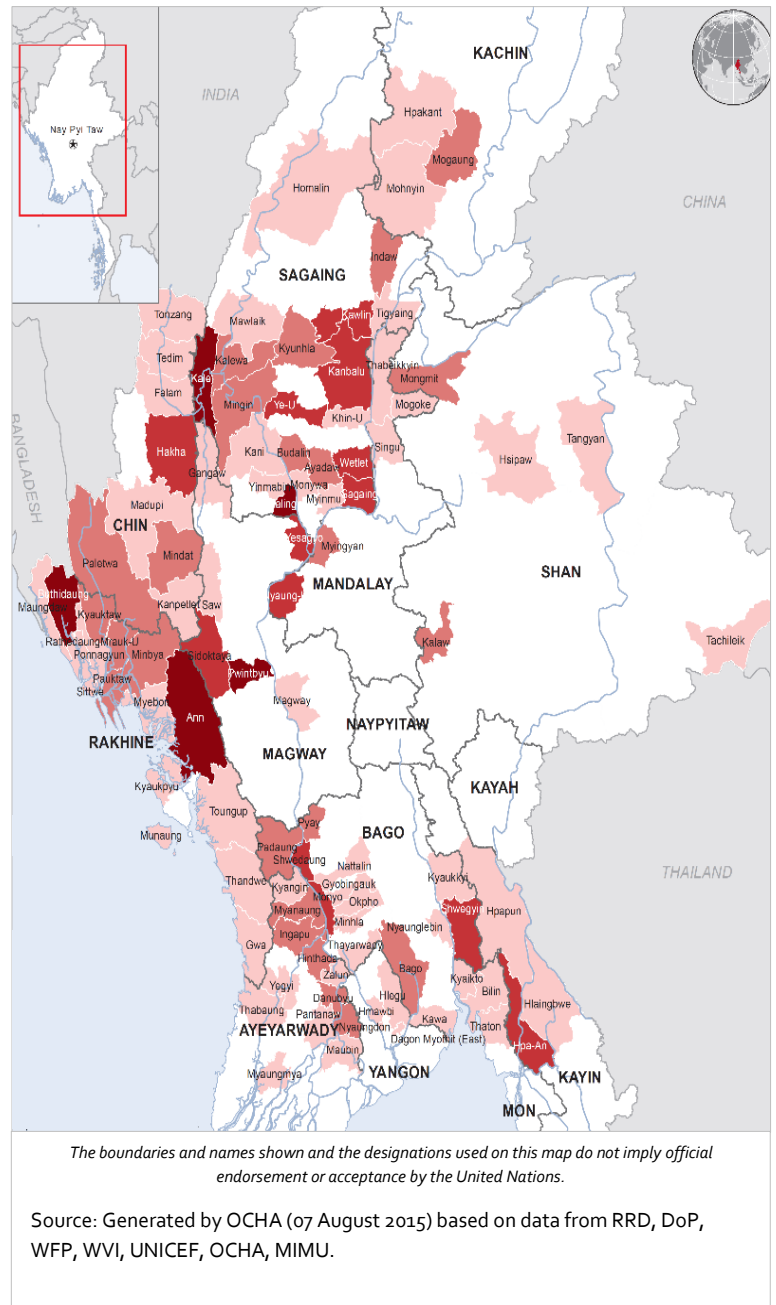
Start of humanitarian response: 31 July 2015 with the Government's announcement of natural disaster zones

	Total	Male	Female
Total Affected Population	1,137,968	548,387	589,581
Children Affected (Under 18)	388,275	187,110	201,165
Children Under Five	101,165	48,752	52,414
School-Aged Children	287,109	138,358	148,751
Pregnant Women	21,621		
Lactating Women	20,483		

## Humanitarian Needs

Humanitarian needs remain acute - with food, shelter, water, sanitation, and psychosocial support among the most urgent needs. Floods and landslides have destroyed crops, houses, health centres and at least 1,200 schools and temporary learning spaces, while cutting people off from access to basic services. Though some roads have reopened, many areas remain impassable to assessment teams and relief providers. UNICEF has been coordinating assessments to support the Government response in Chin, Sagaing, Magway, Rakhine, Bago and Ayeyarwaddy states and regions. Over 25 UNICEF staff have already been deployed to affected areas to support multi-sectoral assessments with local authorities and ensure that the specific needs and vulnerabilities of children and women are addressed. The flooding has inundated over 1.29 million acres of farm land and destroyed crops with long-term impacts on food security and livelihoods, with severe implications for children's welfare and wellbeing, especially those in households at or near the poverty level. Food shortages are being reported in many of the worst affected areas, threatening those children who are already severely or moderately acutely malnourished.

With Government leading the response, UNICEF is working to reach all affected children in Myanmar. UNICEF has provided immediate relief to the affected areas through Government, humanitarian partners and our field offices across the country, building latrines, dispatching water purification tablets and other essential water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), and health supplies, as well as supplies and kits for child psychosocial support.



## Humanitarian leadership and coordination

The Government of Myanmar has taken a leadership role in the response, providing food, building materials, temporary shelters, health care and essential relief items. The Government declared four states and regions as natural disaster zones on 31 July, and requested support for international humanitarian assistance on 4 August<sup>1</sup>. At the request of the Government, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) is coordinating a multi-sectoral rapid needs assessment on immediate relief and early recovery needs in the worst affected areas, conducted jointly by Government, UN agencies and international and national NGOs. While these are already underway in three affected states/regions, all are scheduled to be completed by early next week. UNICEF is deploying staff to join teams across the country, and is leading the assessment in Chin State, which is one of Myanmar's poorest areas. Whilst supporting the Government through the sectors/clusters already in place in the country, and in coordination with all partners, UNICEF is ensuring that children and their families remain at the centre of relief and recovery efforts to safeguard the survival, protection and well-being of all affected children.

## Humanitarian Strategy

Government leadership is evident in leading the flood response, including \facilitating evacuation measures, conducting search and rescue missions, opening relief camps and evacuation centres, providing essential relief supplies, facilitating transportation of relief goods, and clearing and repairing roads and bridges. The Government activated its Emergency Operations Centre on 31 July to strengthen coordination and response among the Government, UN agencies, local and international NGOs, and community service organisations. While humanitarian relief efforts are still required, the situation is slowly normalising as flood waters recede and the current focus of the Government and UNICEF is to coordinate thorough and accurate assessments in all affected regions to support the development of robust recovery plans.

## UNICEF's response to date...

UNICEF has been providing assistance to flood-affected and displaced populations since late July when flooding first affected populations in Sagaing Region. As the situation rapidly unfolded, spreading across multiple states and regions, UNICEF expanded support to reach populations across the country. Flood levels are slowly receding in Chin, Rakhine, Sagaing and Magway, but remain at dangerous levels in Bago and Ayeyarwaddy Regions, where UNICEF is supporting needs assessments and the provision of relief goods, ensuring that the specific needs and vulnerabilities of children and women are addressed.

### ...in Chin

- Though data is still coming in, around 20,000 people in Chin have been directly affected by the flooding and landslides, with nearly 6,000 people relocated to 30 temporary evacuation centres across the state.
- Though the main road connection between Hakha and Kalay has been re-established, opening a badly needed supply line to affected children, it is still intermittently blocked by heavy rainfall. Access also remains hampered to other parts of the state as roads have been washed out by landslides.
- While some food items are now available in markets, prices have become inflated and items are out of reach for most people, preventing the most vulnerable and poor from accessing food.
- UNICEF has supported the construction of 80 emergency latrines as an immediate, temporary measure to ensure access to sanitation services at evacuation centres. However, as these people are likely to be displaced for several weeks, the construction of sturdier facilities will be required.
- UNICEF and partners have deployed 10 Child Friendly Space Kits that will be set up in evacuation centres to provide children with psychosocial support, and have sent 75 Child Protection Kits which will be used for any child identified as separated from his or her family or with other protection concerns in evacuation centres or villages.
- Unexploded landmines and explosive devices in Southern Chin may have been moved by the floods and landslides. UNICEF is working closely with Child Protection Sub-Sector partners to communicate messaging about these risks.
- UNICEF continues to liaise closely with authorities at state and township-level and is taking a lead role in coordinating UN, INGOs and NGOs active in Chin, and is leading the first major assessments of affected area, which is expected to deploy tomorrow.

### ...in Rakhine

- Flood levels have receded in most of the state and the majority of evacuation centres have been closed as people return to their villages of origin to begin rebuilding their homes. At least 30,000 people, including 11,000 children, have been directly affected, though initial assessments show that this figure seems to be underestimated. More than half of flood deaths across Myanmar (56 of 103 reported) have occurred in Rakhine State.
- With mobile and referral health services stretched beyond capacity, this is affecting those with special needs such as pregnant women, women giving birth and lactating mothers, and new born babies and infants.
- A large number of schools have been damaged by the floods and will require repair and maintenance to ensure that children are able to resume their education. Water sources remain contaminated by sea water and many sanitation facilities have been damaged.
- Food security remains a major concern as crops have been destroyed, increasing the risk of malnutrition in an area with extremely high levels of Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) even before the

floods. There is only a 1-2 week window remaining for the replanting of crops to sustain agricultural production during the current growing season.

- Though existing nutrition services and facilities in Rakhine are still functioning, a recent assessment found that 24 breastfeeding spaces, 16 antenatal care centres, and four outpatient treatment centres (for nutrition) were damaged in Sittwe and Pauktaw townships, with renovations already beginning.
- UNICEF has conducted a rapid assessment with the State Education Department and begun an inventory of schools and temporary learning spaces in pre-existing IDP camps that have been damaged by the flooding. This was immediately followed with the distribution of hygiene promotion material in affected communities.
- UNICEF supported clean water trucking to four villages, facilitated the distribution of 6,000 bottles of water through the Department of Social Welfare and local CSOs to affected villages, including in two orphanages, and distributed 5,000 aquatabs for water purification, though access to many areas to provide clean water is still limited due to blocked roads.
- While meeting immediate needs, UNICEF is working quickly with WASH government counterparts to initiate medium term recovery particularly to mitigate potential water shortages during the March to June 2016 dry season.

### ...in Magway and Sagaing

- Over 300,000 people have been affected in these regions, with Kalay Township in Sagaing and Pwint Phyu Township in Magway being the most severely affected. UNICEF participated in a joint assessment on 8 and 9 August to Kalay, visiting three almost completely destroyed villages. Roads continue to be impassable by foot as a result of deep mud deposits. UNICEF is actively participating in more assessments to gather data that will inform recovery efforts.
- Schools, hospitals and clinics across the region have been badly damaged. In Pwint Phyu, at least 128 schools serving over 23,000 children were severely damaged, destroying materials and furniture.
- UNICEF has provided hygiene kits to about 50,000 people since the on-set of the crisis and bleaching powder to clean contaminated wells to 210,000 people in both regions.
- In Magway, affected children will receive psychosocial support through a child friendly space, with assistance and training provided by UNICEF, the Myanmar Red Cross Society and Save the Children.
- UNICEF is coordinating with the Government Department of Social Welfare to deploy child protection case managers to Magway, Sagaing and other affected states and regions with a pre-deployment training set for Friday 14 August in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar's capital.
- As of 6 August around 2,000 people from 36 villages and 64 flooded villages in Kalay have been able to begin returning home, and the situation is being monitored by UNICEF.

### ...in other affected areas

- Water continues to move downstream, affecting well over 300,000 persons in Ayeyarwaddy and Bago Regions. The majority of affected people were evacuated before water levels rose substantially and will likely continue to reside in temporary evacuation centres for the next 1 or 2 weeks. Multi-sectoral assessments during this week will provide more information on figures and needs.
- UNICEF's child protection partners have disseminated safety messages in mine contaminated areas affected by the floods, including through radio broadcasting.
- Across the country, UNICEF will continue to liaise closely with state and region authorities and is actively supporting the Government's recovery and rehabilitation and more long-term development efforts through our ongoing programme of cooperation with the Government.

### Communication for Development (C4D)

- Reports of unsolicited milk powder donations are emerging as evidenced in local media, and UNICEF is mobilising public and private sector partners to step-up monitoring and key messaging to minimise the risks associated with artificial feeding due to the unavailability of clean water, and to promote the continuation or establishment of exclusive breastfeeding as a life-saving measure for infants.
- Information, education and communication materials on how to avoid health risks posed by unsafe water and sanitation facilities and debris and how to provide psycho-social support continue to be distributed across the country, with radio messages reaching 8 million people nationwide, including 4.4 million in affected areas. In addition to Myanmar language, these are being broadcast in five languages: Kachin, Mindat Chin, Hakha Chin, Kayin and Rakhine



## Funding\*

Funding requirements for a period of 6 months				
Appeal Sector	Requirements	Funds received (not incl. pledges)	Funding gap	
			\$	%
WASH	4,400,000	2,528,846	1,871,154	43%
Education	1,649,600	100,000	1,549,600	94%
Health	1,500,000	478,515	1,021,485	68%
Nutrition	500,000	0	500,000	100%
Child Protection	1,100,000	286,493	813,507	74%
Programme Support	311,950	0	311,950	100%
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,461,550</b>	<b>3,393,854</b>	<b>6,067,696</b>	<b>64%</b>

\*Funding requirements are subject to change as the situation is evolving and more comprehensive assessments of the needs of affected populations become available. Initial funding from the UN Central Emergency Response Funds (CERF) of US\$9,161,457 was announced on 7 August, of which UNICEF has received US\$2.3 million for WASH, \$286,493 for Child Protection, and \$478,515 for Health programmes. Additionally, US\$100,000 was received from the Japanese National Committee. The total UNICEF appeal is part of the larger UN wide appeal issued by OCHA for just under \$47 million.

## Next SitRep: 18 August 2015

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### Who to contact for further information:

**Bertrand Bainvel**  
Representative  
UNICEF Myanmar  
Tel: +95-1 230 5960-69  
Email: [sbahuguna@unicef.org](mailto:sbahuguna@unicef.org)

**Alison Rhodes**  
Chief of Advocacy, Partnerships and  
Communications  
UNICEF Myanmar  
Tel: +95-1 230 5960-69  
Email: [arhodes@unicef.org](mailto:arhodes@unicef.org)

**Michael Flachaire**  
Emergency coordinator  
UNICEF Myanmar  
Tel: +95-1 230 5960-69  
Email: [pcampbell@unicef.org](mailto:pcampbell@unicef.org)