



OCHA

MYANMAR

Humanitarian Access Severity Overview

As of April 2024

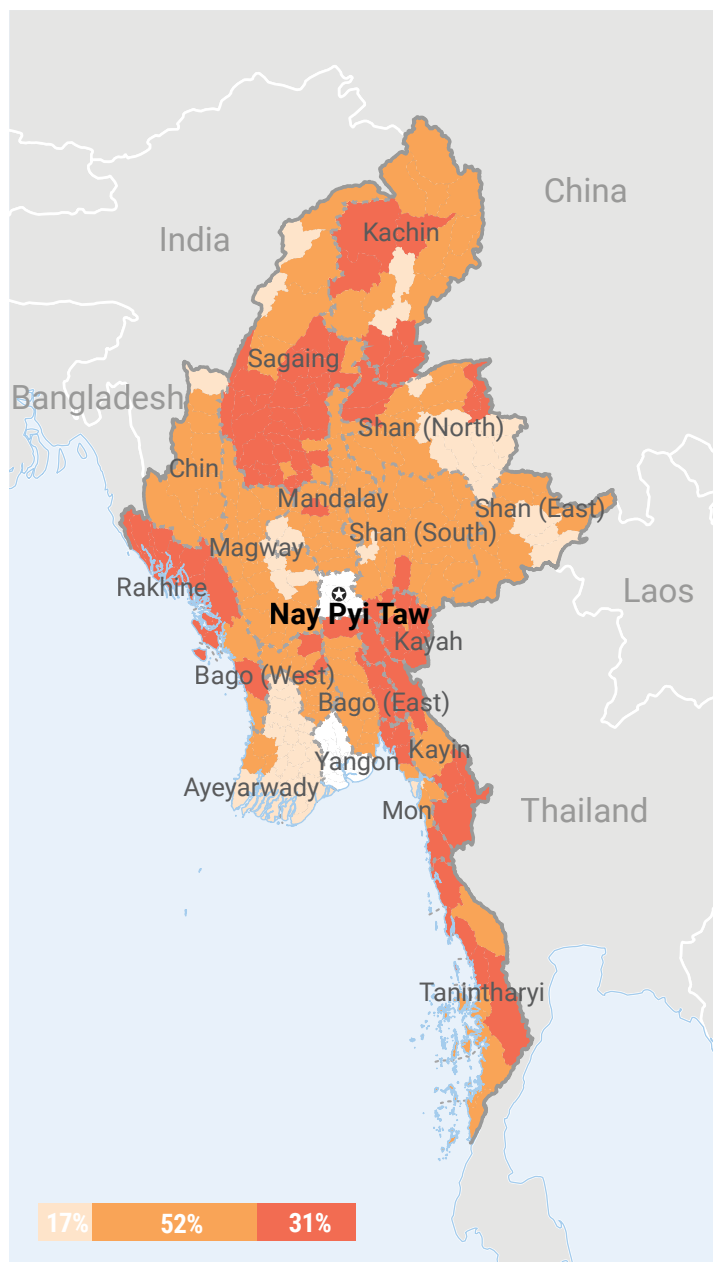
TOWNSHIP ACCESS SEVERITY AS PERCEIVED BY HUMANITARIAN ACTORS

In April 2024, OCHA carried out an access severity monitoring exercise across Myanmar, convening focus group discussions (FGDs) with UN agencies, and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and local/national partners. This monitoring, which looked at all 277 townships covered by the 2024 Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan (HNRP), aimed to assess access barriers impacting humanitarian operations.

The findings revealed that 85 townships, approximately 31 per cent of those assessed, were classified as having extreme access difficulties (Level 3). In these locations, humanitarian efforts are being significantly hindered, with agencies able to assist only a limited portion of the targeted populations. At the same time, 144 townships (52 per cent of those assessed) saw moderate access challenges (Level 2) for humanitarians, and 48 townships (17 per cent) are comparatively relatively accessible (Level 1).

Geographically, the most severe constraints are concentrated in areas affected by armed conflict. Notably, the Northwest and Southeast, along with Rakhine, account for nearly 85 per cent of the townships categorized as having severe access restrictions. Specifically, 29 townships in the Northwest (Sagaing, Magway, and Chin) and 28 townships in the Southeast (Mon, Bago, Kayah, Kayin, Southern Shan, and Tanintharyi), together with 15 townships in Rakhine State, are the most restricted areas according to partners.

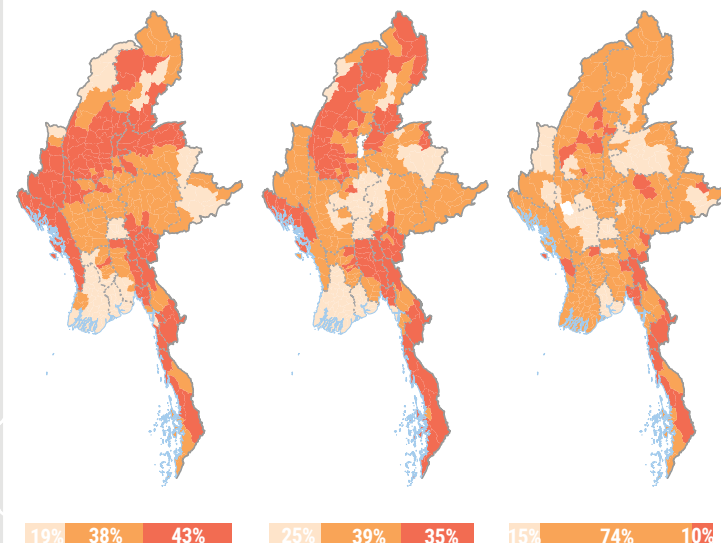
Methodology: The access severity monitoring exercise involved focus group discussions (FGDs) with almost 90 humanitarian partners (UN agencies, international NGOs, national NGOs, and community-based organizations). The objective was to determine the perceptions of humanitarian actors about the challenges they faced in accessing areas for their operations and their ability to execute humanitarian activities in Myanmar. Data was gathered from all 277 townships covered by the 2024 Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan, excluding those within Yangon and Nay Pyi Taw.



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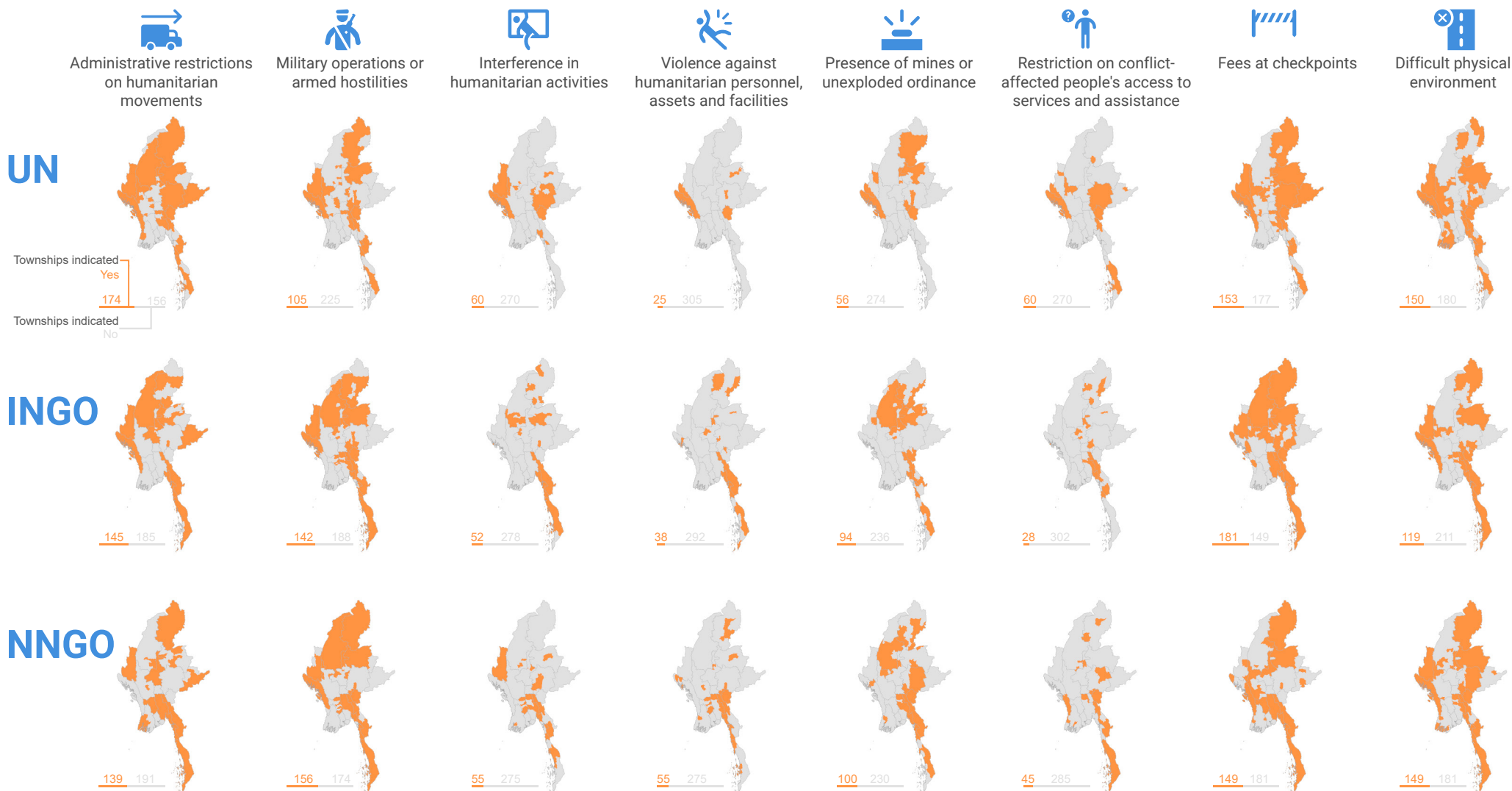
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Legend/Definitions

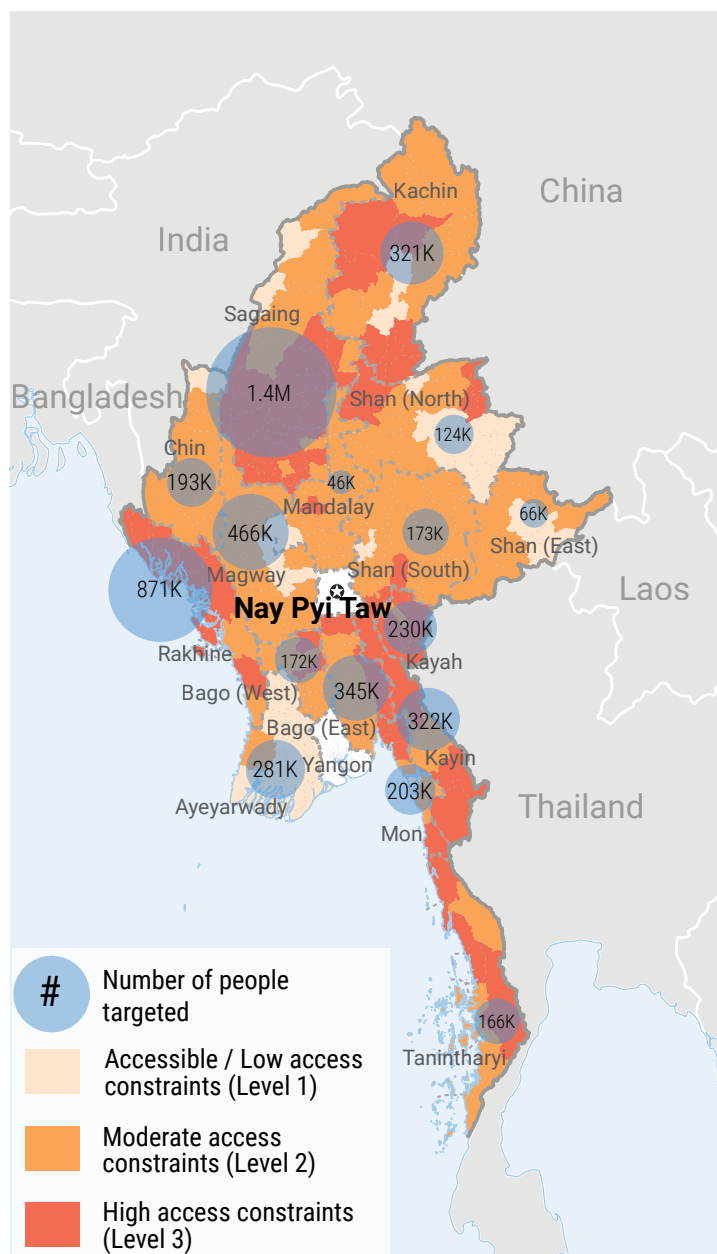
- Accessible / Low access constraints (Level 1):** Military units, checkpoints, airstrikes, or other impediments may be present but do not significantly impede humanitarian activities. With adequate resources and clearances, humanitarian organizations can operate and reach all or nearly all people in need targeted for assistance.
- Moderate access constraints (Level 2):** Military units, checkpoints, air strikes, and other impediments are present, and often result in restrictions on humanitarian movements and operations. However, humanitarian activities continue in these areas with regular restrictions.
- High access constraints (Level 3):** Military units, checkpoints, air strikes, or other impediments may be present and very often result in restrictions on humanitarian movements and operations. Humanitarian activities in these areas face very high difficulties and sometimes are impossible. Even with adequate resources, humanitarian partners would be unable to reach more than a minority of the population targeted for humanitarian assistance.



Humanitarian partners have reported various access constraints in nearly all townships covered by the 2024 HNRP. The prevalence and type of these constraints vary by location and humanitarian actor (see maps above), but clear patterns emerge. Regardless of the organization's type, checkpoint difficulties posed by all parties to the conflict are the most pervasive constraint on humanitarian operations. These include protracted inspections, levying of fees, and demands for a portion of aid cargo to be surrendered to the controlling authorities. This is having serious consequences for affected people, particularly women and children who face significant delays in accessing critical medical

supplies. Further complicating the situation are bureaucratic impediments. Travel authorization (TA) and registration processes are enforced by the State Administrative Council (SAC), while the National Unity Government (NUG) and Ethnic Armed Organizations (EAOs) are also pushing their own registration requirements in some areas. This has created bottlenecks that significantly delay the delivery of life-saving assistance. In contested areas, the situation is even more acute. Here, providing aid in a specific group's area of control can trigger counter-restrictions or threats from the opposing group.

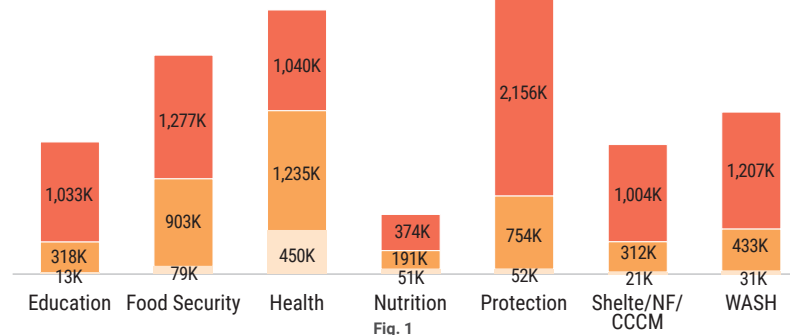
The armed conflict in Myanmar also presents a significant threat to humanitarian workers. The increased prevalence of landmines and unexploded ordnance (UXO) throughout the country is posing extreme dangers to both aid workers and the people they are assisting. Forced recruitment efforts, particularly by the military and its allies, are significantly challenging humanitarian operations not only in SAC-controlled territory but also in areas controlled by EAOs/PDFs, including parts of the Southeast and Northwest. Organizations are finding it more difficult to maintain their programming and are sometimes pausing activities in the face of staff fears about recruitment.



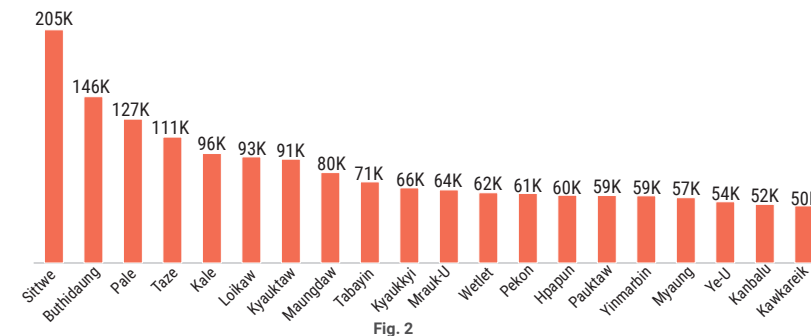
AREAS WITH HIGH POPULATION NEEDS BY LEVEL OF ACCESS DIFFICULTY

Enhancing access to services for those in hard-to-reach regions remains a critical priority for the humanitarian community. Of the 5.3 million people targeted by the 2024 HNRP, approximately 3 million, including more than two million internally displaced persons (IDPs), are located within 85 townships in Myanmar that are considered to have extremely high access constraints. Among these, 20 townships, each housing at least 50,000 people prioritized for humanitarian aid, are situated in Rakhine, Sagaing, southern Shan, eastern Bago, and Kayah. Together, these 20 townships account for more than 1.6 million people targeted for assistance. Additionally, 1.8 million people targeted for assistance reside in 144 townships with moderate levels of access restrictions (level 2). Of these, approximately 680,000 people prioritized for support are located in 14 townships, spread across Chin, Kayah, Kayin, Kachin, Magway, and Sagaing. (Fig. 3). The access severity monitoring also revealed that only 10 per cent of the HNRP's target population (approximately 472,000 people) resides in 48 townships deemed accessible, with more than half of those located in the Ayeyarwady region.

HUMANITARIAN CLUSTER TARGETS BY TOWNSHIP ACCESS SEVERITY LEVELS



TOWNSHIPS WITH AT LEAST 50,000 BENEFICIARIES TARGETED FOR HUMANITARIAN AID WITH VERY HIGH ACCESS DIFFICULTIES



TOWNSHIPS WITH MODERATE ACCESS DIFFICULTIES AND AT LEAST 30,000 BENEFICIARIES TARGETED FOR HUMANITARIAN AID

