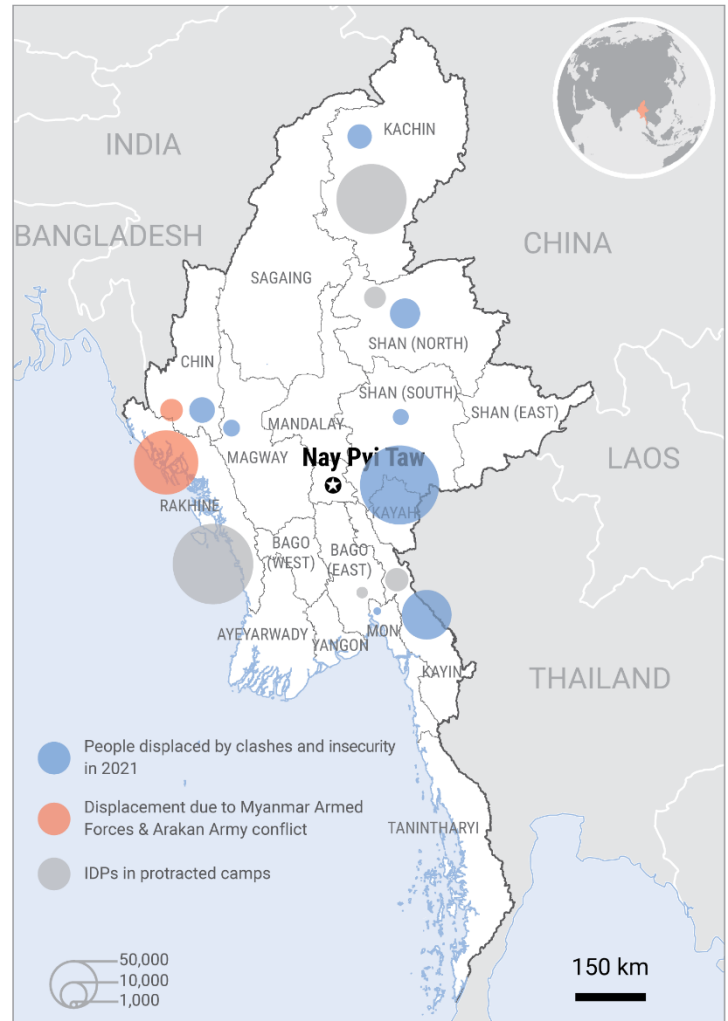


This regular update, covering humanitarian developments from 24 June to 27 July, is produced by OCHA Myanmar in collaboration with the Inter-Cluster Coordination Group and UNHCR and WHO. The next update will be issued towards the end of August 2021.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- An estimated 170,200 people remain displaced in south-eastern parts of Myanmar due to violence, armed clashes and insecurity since 1 February. This includes around 121,400 people displaced in Kayah State and neighboring townships of southern areas of Shan State following an escalation of clashes since 21 May.
- In Chin State, clashes continued in and around Mindat Township over the course of July and more than 18,100 persons remain internally displaced in over 100 sites in Chin State and in neighboring Magway and Sagaing regions.
- In Shan State, population movement remains fluid, with new displacements and small-scale returns recorded during the reporting period. A total of 22,000 people have been displaced across north and southern parts of Shan State since the beginning of 2021; about 7,000 of them remain displaced across 33 temporary sites.
- Continuous rains resulted in floods affecting several townships across Rakhine State and parts of south-eastern Myanmar. A number of fatalities have been reported and several thousand people were affected or displaced, according to initial reports.
- An [Interim Emergency Response Plan](#) has been developed and seeks US\$109 million to reach an additional 2 million people with prioritized emergency humanitarian response activities beyond the scope of the 2021.
- More funds have been secured for humanitarian response in Myanmar and as of 29 July, 42 per cent of the US\$276.5 million requested under the [Humanitarian Response Plan](#) (HRP) has been funded, according to the FTS. However, strengthened donor support is necessary to address the over 50 per cent funding gap.



### KEY FIGURES

## 170K

people remain internally displaced in the south-eastern parts of the country since 1 February.

## 18K

people internally displaced in Chin State, Magway and Sagaing regions due to clashes which erupted in April.

## 22K

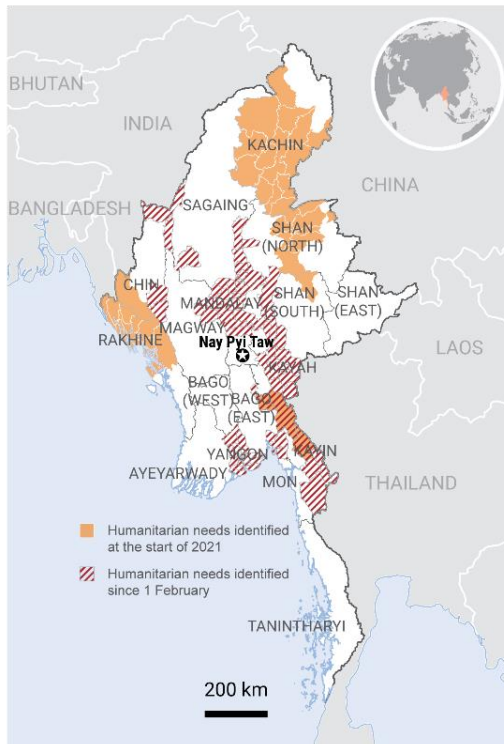
people have been internally displaced in north and southern parts of Shan State since January.

## 11K

people have been internally displaced in Kachin State due to armed clashes which resumed in March.

## SITUATION OVERVIEW

**3 MILLION PEOPLE NEED HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE IN MYANMAR:** About 3 million people need humanitarian assistance and protection services across various parts of Myanmar. This includes about 1 million people living in conflict-affected areas in Chin, Kachin, Kayin, Mon, northern Shan and Rakhine identified at the start of 2021 in the HRP. An additional 2 million people are targeted for humanitarian assistance and protection services, as part of the recently developed Interim Emergency Response Plan. The Plan mainly focuses on people in urban and peri-urban areas in Yangon and Mandalay, as well as those displaced or otherwise affected in Chin and Kayin states since 1 February.



The Plan will ensure a coordinated approach to respond to people's food and nutrition needs, water, sanitation and hygiene, education, shelter, health and a wide range of protection services, such as Child Protection and prevention and response to Gender-Based Violence (GBV). The Plan will integrate COVID-19 related prevention and response in its programming.

The Interim Emergency Response Plan aims to complement the existing HRP and ensures an operational planning framework for humanitarian partners to coordinate response. The Plan identifies an additional US\$109 million in emergency humanitarian programming to be implemented until the end of 2021. These requirements are in addition to the \$276.5 million requested through the 2021 HRP. As of 30 July, US\$7.8 million has been received against the total requirements under the Interim Plan, which represents 7 per cent of funding.

**FLUID POPULATION MOVEMENT IN THE SOUTHEAST:** The security situation in south-eastern Myanmar remains tense, with sporadic clashes between the Myanmar Armed Forces (MAF) and Ethnic Armed Organizations (EAOs) or the "People's Defense Forces" ("PDFs") reported in Kayah, Kayin and Mon states and eastern Bago and Tanintharyi regions. In Kayah State, about 5,000 people from 11 villages in Loilen Lay Town in eastern part of Loikaw Township have been displaced on 12 July, following clashes between the MAF and the "Karenni Nationalities Defense Force", a coalition of the "Karenni Army" and the "PDFs".

UNHCR estimates that about 170,200 persons have been internally displaced since 1 February in south-eastern Myanmar. This includes some 121,400 displaced in Kayah and southern areas of Shan states (Hsihseng and Pekon townships), about 47,700 in Kayin State, including 7,000 people who had returned after having fled to Thailand between April and May but who remain internally displaced, and a further 1,100 in Mon State. According to public sources, 69 civilians have been killed, about 160 houses and 8 churches destroyed in Kayah and southern areas of Shan states due to the hostilities that have erupted in May. Details of these incidents could not be verified due to access challenges and security concerns.

The humanitarian situation in the area remains dire, as the majority of displaced populations, who are unable to return due to ongoing hostilities, continue to experience significant challenges in accessing basic needs due to various constraints, including limited humanitarian access.

Humanitarian partners continue to make efforts to provide food, non-food-items, medical assistance and shelter materials as well as protection services to the newly displaced and otherwise vulnerable populations. In tandem with increasing needs, humanitarian organizations, are mobilizing funds and finalizing a contingency plan to respond to the emerging situation in the area. Critical needs for food, medicines and shelter have been reported, while a wide range of protection services and other humanitarian needs of affected communities – especially children, women and elderly persons – remain to be fully addressed.

**OVER 18,000 PEOPLE REMAIN DISPLACED IN CHIN STATE:** The security situation in Chin State and neighbouring two regions remains unpredictable, as hostilities between the MAF and the "PDFs" picked up again in several townships. Intermittent clashes have been reported in Mindat in Chin State as well as in Saw in Magway and

Kale and Tamu townships in Sagaing regions throughout July. Increased deployment of troops and continued road blockages and checkpoints have been reported in and around Mindat Township with the temporary ceasefire between the “Chinland Defense Force-Mindat” and the MAF not extended beyond 14 July. In Magway Region, several rounds of artillery were reported in Saw Township on 15 July. In Sagaing Region, clashes in several villages in Kale and Tamu townships in mid-July resulted in a reported number of civilian casualties.

As of 19 July, more than 18,100 persons remain internally displaced in over 100 displacement sites in Chin, Magway and Sagaing. Most of the displaced persons are in four townships in Chin State, where they have been displaced since mid-May. This displacement is in addition to some 9,850 people who remain displaced across 27 sites in Paletwa Township in Chin State due to the earlier conflict between the MAF and the “Arakan Army”.

Access to affected areas remains substantially constrained, although two partners were able to deliver essential assistance to the people in need in certain locations in Mindat Township, including food items for two weeks, medicines, surgical masks and hand sanitizers targeting about 2,000 people. A UN agency also distributed non-food items, including tarpaulins, mosquito nets, mats, blankets, kitchen sets, solar lamps and protective medical equipment in Mindat.

**RECURRENT POPULATION MOVEMENT IN NORTH AND SOUTHERN SHAN:** Armed clashes between the MAF and EAOs and among EAOs in north and southern areas of Shan State continued between late June and mid-July. On 30 June, some 860 persons from 11 villages in Kyaukme Township in northern Shan were displaced following a series of clashes between the “Restoration Council of Shan State” (RCSS) and the allied forces of the “Shan State Progress Party” (SSPP) and the “Ta’ang National Liberation Army”. In Muse Township, more than 400 people in Man Yang Village Tract fled their home on 6 July due to armed clashes between the MAF and the “Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army”; the displaced families were able to return only on 17 July. In Hsipaw Township, about 300 persons from two villages fled their home on 16 July due to clashes between the RCSS and the SSPP. In southern areas of Shan State, partners confirmed the displacement of over 2,900 persons in Kyethi and Mongkaing in mid-July.

As of 22 July, some 7,000, out of the 22,479 persons who have been displaced across 14 townships in Shan State, remain displaced across 33 temporary sites in Kyethi and Mongkaing townships in the south and in Hsipaw, Kyaukme and Kunlong townships in northern parts of Shan State.

Humanitarian partners and local communities are complementing locally led responses to the newly displaced persons through the provision of food and non-food; however, displaced people remain in need of food, mosquito nets, blankets and COVID-19 prevention related support.

### **FLOODS AFFECT TOWNSHIPS IN RAKHINE STATE AND PARTS**

**OF SOUTH-EAST:** Continuous monsoon rains caused flooding in lowland areas in Rakhine State and certain parts of south-eastern Myanmar, including Kayin and Mon states and Tanintharyi Region. Initial reports indicated that some 3,000 people have reportedly been affected, with 100 households evacuated from their homes in Hlaingbwe Township in Kayin State. In addition, more than 1,400 people in several wards in Myawaddy Town in Kayin State were evacuated to 10 relief camps on 26 July and received rice assistance from local communities and structures. Additional people, whose exact number could not be ascertained, have also been affected in several townships in Mon State, including in Mawlamyine and Ye.

In Rakhine, initial reports indicated that Kalar Chaung Monastery displacement site, hosting about 1,000 internally displaced people (IDPs) in Mrauk-U Township has been flooded on 25 July. This has affected approximately 24 out of 142 shelters within the displacement site. In Maungdaw, Buthidaung and Rathedaung townships, over 600 households in several villages have been affected, while roads connecting communities have been blocked and power supply disrupted in Thandwe Township since 26 July; water levels on the roads have reached up to nine feet. Some 200 households in the township’s affected areas have been evacuated to safer locations by local volunteers; they are expected to return to their places of origin



soon. In Kyaukpyu Township, Kyauk Ta Lone IDP camp, at least 27 families have had their temporary shelter damaged, and dozens of sanitation facilities damaged or destroyed due to the floods. The affected people are taking refuge in the higher sections of the camp, hosted by relatives.

Operational partners are currently collaborating with local aid groups and volunteers to better understand the situation and collect information on people's needs. According to multiple sources, many people in affected locations and other areas where precipitation had been forecasted need support with evacuation. Those who have been evacuated or otherwise affected by floods require assistance in food, emergency shelter, health care and medical supplies, according to initial reports. Local volunteers have managed to evacuate the affected people and have provided initial assistance in terms of food and WASH as well as some COVID-19 awareness raising activities. The response, however, is likely to be impacted by access limitations, including those related to the current COVID-19 prevention measures.

**COVID-19:** Available figures suggest that COVID-19 testing is taking place in States and Regions from both the public and private sectors, with the variants Alpha, Delta, and Kappa identified across the country, according to a report from 15 June, but not the extent to which any single variant dominates infections.

Current figures show that the Severe Acute Respiratory Infection (SARI) cases have rapidly accelerated, as has the demand for hospitalization. Because the data is limited, it is not possible to confirm how these figures reflect the real situation, but it indicates a rapidly increasing number of infections in the country. From 1-28 July, a total of 126,822 cases were reported from 382,125 tests with a test positive ratio of 33.18 per cent; daily test positive ratio is reaching 40 per cent. A total of 4,876 deaths attributed to COVID-19 were reported during the same period, with Bago, Yangon and Sagaing regions heavily affected.

A stay-at-home order have been imposed in over 80 townships across the country, and public holidays in July have been extended in an attempt to reduce the movement of people. This situation is unfolding in a context where access to health facilities is extremely limited. Partners are working to re-operationalize testing and surveillance activities, while COVID-19 treatment centres are being established with available resources and capacities. The full operationalizing of clinical management of cases is planned as soon as possible.

## HUMANITARIAN ACCESS

**HUMANITARIAN ACCESS REMAINS CONSTRAINED:** Overall, humanitarian access in conflict-affected areas remains substantially limited due to armed clashes, presence of armed personnel along the main transport routes and bureaucratic constraints. In Kayah, Kayin and neighbouring areas, military checkpoints and insecurity are disrupting and delaying humanitarian programming, while further limiting the types of aid that partners are able to transport. In the South-east, the critical needs of the displaced populations, including food, WASH and healthcare, are increasing and remain mostly unaddressed, due to the constraints on the movements of staff and humanitarian goods. In Kachin and northern Shan, humanitarian access situation remains largely unchanged, with partners facing difficulties accessing remote and/or conflict-affected areas. In Rakhine, bureaucratic restrictions continue to limit the movements of humanitarian actors, despite the lasting lull in MAF-AA conflict. Additional new restrictions are being imposed with the spread of COVID-19 cases, which will further hamper access by partners.

Across all areas, the pre-existing burdensome Travel Authorization (TA) submission procedures remain in place, causing delays in delivering life-saving humanitarian assistance and much-needed protection services to the affected populations. The access situation continues to deteriorate due to the ongoing COVID-19 outbreak, with a number of partners in several areas temporarily suspending their activities, and humanitarian assistance becoming more limited in scope as well as restrictions on staff movements.

**CASH SHORTAGE CONTINUES TO IMPACT RESPONSE:** The cash liquidity crisis persists, with no significant improvement. It continues to hamper cash and voucher assistance (CVA) programmes and operations; where possible, partners are creatively resolving this situation to sustain the programmes. Prices for core staple commodities have remained relatively stable since June, despite the challenges with transportation and monsoon season price hikes. While the price for cooking oil has reduced nationwide by 3 per cent, the reduction is not near the February cost hike, which saw an increase in prices of over 50 per cent.



## CLUSTER/SECTORAL HIGHLIGHTS

### Protection

- In Rakhine, Kachin, northern Shan and Kayin states, partners continued delivering critical GBV services, including case management and psychosocial support (PSS) remotely and in person where possible. Throughout June, partners distributed 1,340 dignity kits for vulnerable women and girls as well as 30 clean delivery kits for pregnant women in Rakhine, Kayah and the southern part of Shan states. Partners also prepositioned essential kits to ensure they can reach more vulnerable people during future distributions.
- In Rakhine, a partner has conducted a training for around 20 female tailors from Sittwe and Kyauktaw townships, who will be making reusable sanitary pads to distribute to 600 women and girls and another one expanded legal services for GBV survivors in the northern part of the state. In Kachin, GBV survivors have had access to clinical care, with support from health partners. In Shan State, partners are sustaining the delivery of critical GBV services remotely and through camp-based volunteers in the northern areas, while they continue mapping GBV risks. The sector partners conducted safety audit assessment of women and girls to identify potential GBV risks and mitigate the identified risks at three locations in Taunggyi and Shwe Nyaung townships, where displaced families from Kayah State are hosted. In addition, a GBV pocket guide training was conducted in July for local partner civil society organizations to support the survivors, in areas with limited specialized responders. In Kayin, GBV referral pathways have been updated in six townships. Additionally, partners are conducting mapping exercise to gather information on the impacts of COVID-19 outbreak on critical protection, mitigation measures as well as response activities.
- Child Protection (CP) partners responded to over 600 new cases countrywide related to the ongoing political developments through referrals and case management. A partner has provided food assistance for 600 children and their families in Yangon and Magway regions. In Rakhine, partners continued case management and provided critical mental health and psychosocial support in Myebon, Pauktaw and Sittwe townships. In Pauktaw and Sittwe townships, nearly 50 CP cases were identified and responded to. Furthermore, 30 community social workers received training, in addition to CP sessions for 150 children and training on inclusion of people with disabilities and COVID-19 awareness sessions for 720 families. In northern Shan, nine new CP cases were identified and followed up. Over 160 kits for child-friendly activities were distributed to 230 conflict-affected children in Hsipaw, Kutkai, Kyaukme and Muse townships. Similarly, in Kayin and Kayah, partners reached conflict-affected children with various CP activities, which includes distribution of child-friendly kits, provisions of CP case management and PSS.

### Health

- Countrywide, there have been 260 attacks on health care services, leading to 18 deaths and 59 injuries, according to the data recorded between 1 February and 26 July by the WHO [Surveillance System for Attacks on Health Care](#). The attacks impacted 153 personnel, 83 patients and 31 medical vehicles. In Shan State, vulnerable and displaced families in hard-to-reach areas received teleconsultation services where access to health care is limited. Messages relating COVID-19 prevention and response were distributed through partners as well as via the “Viber” messaging platform.

### Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

- Partners continued to support WASH activities in several townships in Rakhine, Chin, Kachin and Shan states. Vulnerable people in Ann, Buthidaung, Kyauktaw, Minbya, Mrauk-U, Myebon, Pauktaw, Ponnagyun, Rathedaung and Sittwe townships in Rakhine as well as Samee and Paletwa townships in Chin states have had improved access to clean water and sanitation and improved their hygiene through awareness and training sessions. Further in Rakhine, partners raised awareness on COVID-19 prevention and ensured vulnerable people receive WASH services through camp-based staff and volunteers in areas with limited access. Similarly, in Kachin, partners reached an estimated 15,000 people through COVID-19 prevention messages. Additionally, partners distributed hygiene kits and carried out emergency WASH activities, including renovation of latrines, testing of drinking water quality to improve access to safe drinking water for 4,800 individuals newly displaced in Bhamo and Mansi townships. In Chipwi Township in particular, partners carried out fecal sludge treatment and provided desludging services for nearly 2,000 people in three IDP camps and host communities in the township

municipal area. In Shan State, partners installed latrines and provided life-saving assistance, including cash, hygiene kits, COVID-19 prevention items and health care services to the vulnerable displaced families.

## Education in Emergencies

- Schools in many areas of the country, including those operated by ethnic education providers, which were re-opened on 1 June, have been closed as of 9 July due to the surge in COVID-19 cases.
- Since the COVID-19-related school closures, partners had distributed learning materials for children to use at home; since January 2021, over 23,370 children have received learning materials. To ensure children have the guidance needed to learn well both in and outside of education facilities, partners also reached over 2,680 caregivers with trainings to assist children in using learning materials. Partners will continue to use emergency measures, including remote support for learning at home, to minimize the disruption to children's education, while prioritizing both communication for COVID-19 prevention and non-specialized psychosocial support within education activities.
- Both the COVID-19-related prevention measures and the security situation are likely to result in severely limited access to communities. This puts children's future at risk – without emergency interventions for learning continuity, a second consecutive year without access to education will leave an entire generation of Myanmar's children irreversibly behind. The Sector is adapting to these challenges and will work together with other clusters/sectors to address them.

## Shelter/Non-Food Items/Camp Coordination and Camp Management

- In Rakhine, over 1,000 longhouses have been identified for reconstruction in Sittwe and Pauktaw townships; of which, about 745 houses were in urgent need of rehabilitation. However, partners were able to secure funding only for 250 longhouses for the remainder of 2021, which leaves a big gap in coverage (75 per cent). Partners therefore urgently need an additional US\$7 million to cover these needs. In Rakhine, partners supported 690 longhouses with large tarpaulin sheets to cover the entire shelter and protect them from leaking roofs. In addition, a total of 3,000 families in the displacement sites in Rakhine received emergency shelter support, including tarpaulins, bamboo and wood allowing them to make necessary repairs for their dwellings, which is highly needed especially now in the Monsoon season.

## Food Security

- In Kachin, a partner provided agricultural support and distributed cash grants to vulnerable families in Bhamo and Myitkyina townships to establish micro businesses. Similarly, a partner delivered food assistance to vulnerable families, including those living in the most impoverished locations and informal settlements in urban and peri-urban areas of Yangon Region. In this respect, in April, a total of 200 families in Hlaingtharya Township in Yangon received food packages, in addition to financial support of US\$15 per household. Over the course of June and July, 500 additional vulnerable households in Hlaingtharya, Shwepyitha and Dagon Seikkan townships in Yangon Region received food assistance. In Rakhine, a partner has been promoting small-scale inland aquaculture by rehabilitating 100 fishponds and the construction of new ones. In Buthidaung and Maungdaw townships, about 900 vulnerable households benefitted from cash-for-work activities.

## Logistics

- WFP has been operating direct relief flights between Yangon and Kuala Lumpur since 18 July, instead of transit via Vientiane, due to increasing demands, and the transit restriction for passengers coming from Myanmar imposed by Singapore. Meanwhile, air services from Yangon to most domestic destinations continue, except for routes to Kalay, Keng Tung, Lashio, Tachileik, Myeik, Dawei and Kawthaung, which have been suspended until the end of July. It is required for passengers from the townships under stay-at-home orders to quarantine and check the COVID-19 related measures before the trip. Overall, partners continue to face logistics challenges due to delays in receiving cargo clearance, transport permits and recommendation letters for transportation, in addition to insecurity and road blockages reported above.

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