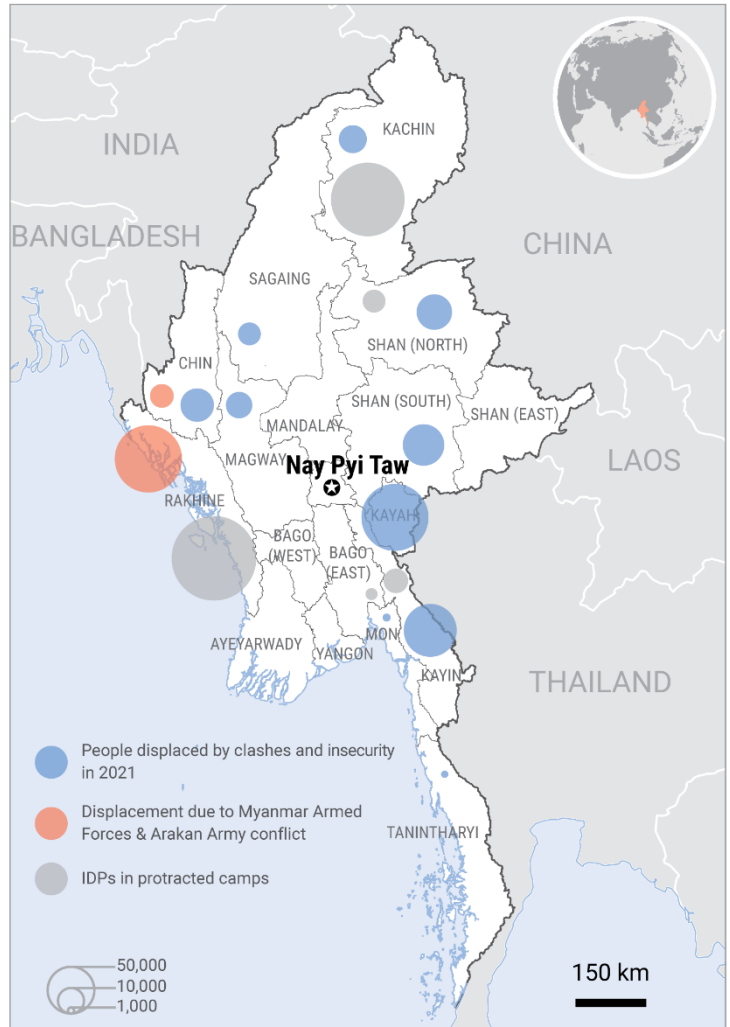


This regular update, covering humanitarian developments from 24 August to 30 September, is produced by OCHA Myanmar in collaboration with the Inter-Cluster Coordination Group, UNHCR and WFP. The next update will be issued towards the end of October 2021.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The humanitarian situation in several townships in Sagaing and Magway regions is deteriorating with an estimated 63,000 people temporarily displaced in Sagaing between 4 and 13 September and more than 12,000 currently displaced in Magway, according to local partners.
- In Chin State, clashes between the Myanmar Armed Forces (MAF) and local People's Defense Force (PDF) escalated, particularly around Thantlang. As of 13 September, close to 12,000 people remain displaced in several townships and neighbouring regions.
- The security situation in south-eastern Myanmar continued to deteriorate throughout September, particularly in Kayah State and the bordering townships of southern Shan. An estimated 142,000 people remain displaced, mostly in Kayah State, due to clashes and insecurity since 1 February.
- Despite access, security and other operational constraints, WFP and partners have started to overcome challenges in food and cash distributions in conflict-affected areas and elsewhere.
- An estimated 34,000 people have fled across Shan State since the beginning of 2021; close to 13,380 remain displaced.
- Across the country, access to vulnerable people in need of urgent humanitarian assistance and protection services remains significantly restricted due to escalating armed clashes, overall insecurity and COVID-related restrictions.
- As of 27 September, less than half of the US\$276.5 million requested under the [Humanitarian Response Plan \(HRP\)](#), and only 15 per cent of the US\$109 million requested under the [Interim Emergency Response Plan](#) have been funded, according to the [FTS](#).



KEY FIGURES

142K

people remain internally displaced in south-eastern Myanmar since 1 February.

87K

people have been internally displaced in Chin State, Sagaing and Magway regions since August 2021.

32K

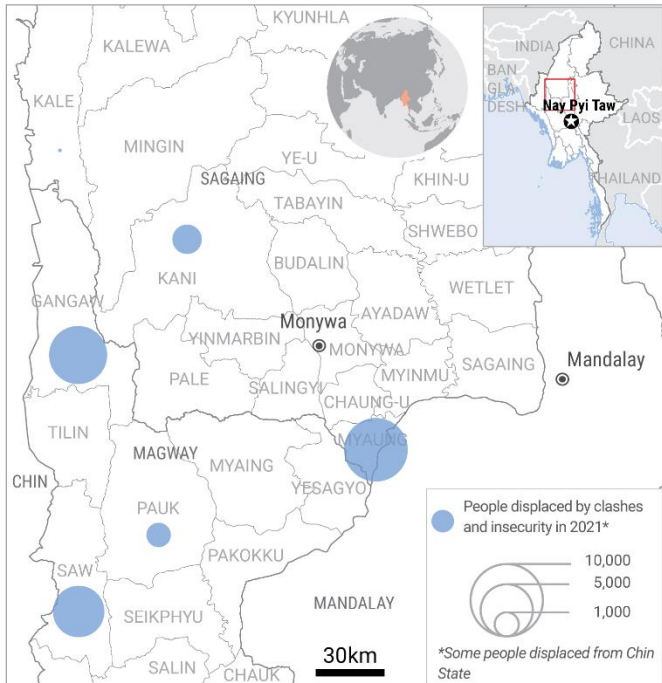
people have been internally displaced in Shan State since January 2021.

14K

people have been internally displaced in Kachin State since March 2021.

SITUATION OVERVIEW

DIRE HUMANITARIAN SITUATION AND DISPLACEMENT IN SAGAING AND MAGWAY: The humanitarian situation in Sagaing and Magway regions of central Myanmar remains dire, with armed clashes reported between the MAF and local PDFs with security incidents recorded in several townships since early April. On 16 September, airstrikes were reported for the first time in Sagaing, targeting local PDFs in Chaung-U Township and resulting in civilian deaths. The ongoing hostilities have caused thousands of people to flee their homes and destruction of property. Houses have been burnt in both regions. It remains difficult to determine the full humanitarian impact, including the exact number of people cumulatively displaced, the number of civilian casualties and the damage to civilian property because humanitarian partners have not been granted access to the regions with travel authorizations pending.



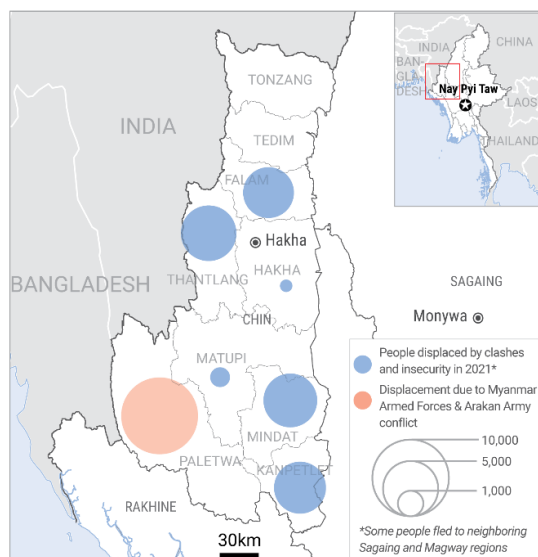
In Sagaing Region, the conflict has affected about 18 townships. The most affected areas include Kani, Myaung, Tabayin, Shwebo and Yinmarbin. According to partners, an estimated 63,600 people were displaced from many villages in 11 townships in September. Some 45,000 of this group were temporarily displaced from 8 townships between 4 and 13 September and about 18,600 people in 3 townships were temporarily displaced between 7 and 10 September.

In Magway Region, armed clashes and security incidents have reportedly affected several townships, mostly in Gangaw, Myaing, Paik and Saw. More than 12,000 people fled to nearby safer villages and into the forest, according to local sources. About half of them are newly displaced from four villages in Gangaw and from one village in Saw township due to clashes in early September. Around 4,900 remain displaced in Saw and another 1,100 remain displaced in Paik townships since mid-May and mid-June respectively, having fled from neighbouring Chin State due to MAF-PDF clashes.

Since 15-25 September, 10 townships in Sagaing and 4 townships in Magway have experienced blackouts of mobile internet and Wi-Fi services. In addition, three Sagaing townships – Kawlin, Pinlebu and Wuntho – have also been experiencing loss of mobile telecommunications since 25 September. There have been further reports of Mytel Telecom towers across Sagaing Region and other areas being destroyed. The internet blackout across those townships has deprived affected populations of access to timely information, access to mobile banking and remote health care, as well as communication channels for online learning being used while schools have been closed.

Since 15-25 September, 10 townships in Sagaing and 4 townships in Magway have experienced blackouts of mobile internet and Wi-Fi services. In addition, three Sagaing townships – Kawlin, Pinlebu and Wuntho – have also been experiencing loss of mobile telecommunications since 25 September. There have been further reports of Mytel Telecom towers across Sagaing Region and other areas being destroyed. The internet blackout across those townships has deprived affected populations of access to timely information, access to mobile banking and remote health care, as well as communication channels for online learning being used while schools have been closed.

Since 15-25 September, 10 townships in Sagaing and 4 townships in Magway have experienced blackouts of mobile internet and Wi-Fi services. In addition, three Sagaing townships – Kawlin, Pinlebu and Wuntho – have also been experiencing loss of mobile telecommunications since 25 September. There have been further reports of Mytel Telecom towers across Sagaing Region and other areas being destroyed. The internet blackout across those townships has deprived affected populations of access to timely information, access to mobile banking and remote health care, as well as communication channels for online learning being used while schools have been closed.



HOSTILITIES CAUSE DISPLACEMENT FROM THANTLANG IN CHIN STATE:

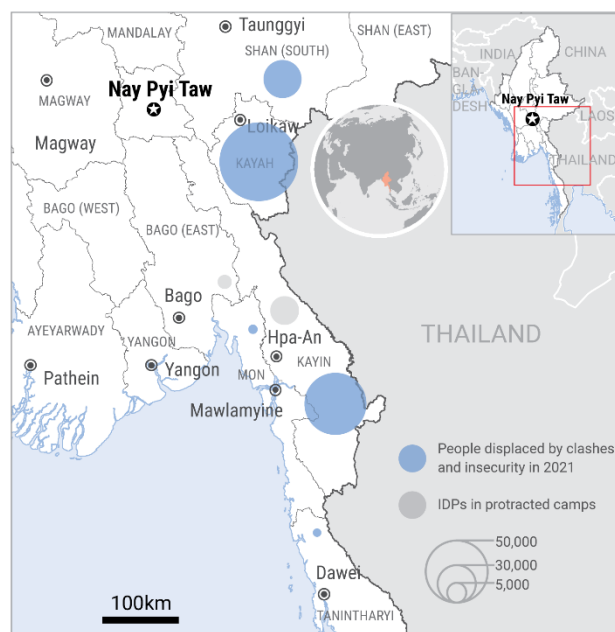
The overall security situation across Chin State remains tense, with escalating armed clashes reported between the MAF and local PDFs in Hakha, Kanpetlet, Mindat, Matupi, Thantlang and Tedim townships throughout September. There were reports of an airstrike in Lungler Village in Thantlang Township. According to multiple sources, a church and several buildings in Mindat Town were destroyed and at least 18 homes in Thantlang Town were burnt down during the hostilities. In Thantlang Town, the majority of the population fled their homes due to clashes and insecurity on 18 September, with some reportedly crossing over to the border of Mizoram State in India.

While some partners have been able to deliver assistance, the access situation for Paletwa, Mindat and other locations remains constrained as the MAF continue to maintain heavy restrictions. The Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS) was able to deliver food and hygiene items, as well as COVID-19 resources in Mindat between 2

and 22 September. They also ran mobile clinics in five displacement sites in Mindat Town, where they provided primary health care to both displaced people and host communities. At the same time, a number of UN agencies and INGOs submitted Travel Authorisation (TA) applications to access Mindat and other townships in Chin State, which are still pending. As of 13 September, an estimated 12,000 people remained displaced in Chin and neighbouring Magway Region due to clashes and insecurity since mid-May. This displacement is in addition to the nearly 10,000 people displaced in Paletwa (southern Chin) since March 2019 due to the earlier clashes between the MAF and the Arakan Army (AA). According to UNHCR, some 15,000 people have crossed the border into Mizoram State in north-eastern India since the beginning of 2021.

NEW DISPLACEMENT IN KAYAH IN THE SOUTHEAST: The security situation in south-eastern Myanmar continued to deteriorate throughout September, particularly in Kayah State and the bordering townships of southern Shan, with armed clashes reported between the MAF and the allied forces of the Karenni Army with the Karenni Nationalities Defense Force. Since September, several townships in the two states – Bawlake, Demoso, Hpruso, Loikaw and Pekon – have seen an escalation of clashes, deployment of more troops and random shootings. Around 22,000 people from several villages were newly displaced due to the continued conflict in and around Kayah State, while some 18,000 people who had been displaced earlier returned to their places of origin during the reporting period. One civilian was killed and four others were injured due to indiscriminate firing in Nan Hpe Village in Bawlake Township. A Catholic church and an unverified number of houses in San Pya Chauk Maing Village Tract in Demoso Township were damaged and burnt by heavy artillery fire around 7 September. According to public sources, more than 240 houses and 5 churches were damaged and around 80 civilians were killed during the hostilities in the two states between 1 February and 31 August.

Displacement was also documented in other parts of south-eastern Myanmar as a result of armed clashes between the MAF and the Karen National Liberation Army in Kayin State, increased deployment of troops and security concerns in Tanintharyi Region. As of 20 September, UNHCR estimates that 142,000 people remained internally displaced across south-eastern Myanmar; this includes 80,200 in Kayah, 10,900 in southern Shan State, 48,900 in Kayin, 1,100 in Mon states and 900 in Tanintharyi Region.



FLUID POPULATION MOVEMENT IN SHAN STATE: The security situation in both northern and southern Shan State remains volatile, with armed clashes and hostilities reported between rival ethnic armed organisations (EAOs), as well as between EAOs and the MAF across several townships. The conflict continued to result in new displacement across several townships in September, albeit at a lower rate compared to previous months – more than 5,000 were displaced in August and around 4,450 in July. Since September, there have been close to 2,900 IDPs across Shan State; some 2,755 IDPs in Monkaing Township in the south and more than 100 IDPs in Kyaukme Township in the north. This was due to clashes between the Restoration Council of Shan State/Shan State Army (RCSS/SSA) and the Shan State Progress Party/Shan State Army (SSPP/SSA) and between the RCSS/SSA and the allied forces of the SSPP/SSA with the Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA). Clashes and other security incidents between the MAF and EAOs were reported in Lashio and Muse townships in northern Shan.

Since the beginning of 2021, about 34,000 people have been displaced in 16 townships across Shan State (22,144 in the north and 11,767 in the south) due to armed clashes and insecurity since the beginning of 2021. While there have been returns, 13,379 IDPs remain hosted in temporary sites in 6 townships - Hsipaw, Kyaukme and Muse in the north and in Laikha, Mongkaing and Mongpan in the south. Humanitarian partners are attempting to reach displaced civilians with assistance and protection services, despite access, security and other operational constraints.

INCREASING INCIDENTS OF SAFETY AND SECURITY ACROSS KACHIN STATE: The overall security situation in Kachin State remains concerning. Despite the decrease in the scale of armed conflict between the MAF and the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) over the reporting period, there has been an increase in safety and security incidents across Kachin State that have hampered movement of civilians and humanitarian workers. Staff members

of the United Nations now require security clearances to travel more than five kilometres beyond the urban areas of Bhamo and Myitkyina townships. Several security incidents were reported, killing three local administrators, while grenade and IED attacks against telecommunications towers and a State-run local bank were also reported.

FOOD AND CASH DISTRIBUTIONS FOR VULNERABLE PEOPLE: After two months of temporary suspension due to various challenges, including banking issues, humanitarian access, insecurity and COVID-19 restrictions, WFP and partners have resumed monthly distributions of food and cash in Chin, Kachin, Rakhine and northern Shan states in September. At the same time, WFP has expanded the geographical coverage of its large-scale urban response in Mandalay and Yangon regions.

WFP's cash distributions have reached 16,000 (35 per cent) of 45,000 IDPs in Kachin with a three-month ration (July to September) and 135,600 (73 per cent) of 184,700 people in central Rakhine with a two-month ration (July and August). In northern Shan, the resumption of food distributions to some 8,300 people in Konkyan Township has resumed, while cash distributions for 7,000 IDPs in Kutkai, Namhkan, Namtu and Mansi townships are currently ongoing. Distributions have also taken place to some 105,000 people in northern Rakhine and to some 9,450 IDPs in southern Chin in September.

For the urban response, WFP has started the first round of rice distributions for 145,000 people in Dala Township in the Yangon Region and has started the second round of rice distribution for approximately 7,500 people in Mandalay Region. In addition, WFP has reached 21,100 children between 6 and 59 months old under its Blanket Supplementary Feeding Programme (BSFP) in Dala, Insein and Hlaing Tharyar townships in Yangon Region.

HUMANITARIAN ACCESS

HUMANITARIAN NEEDS MOUNTING DUE TO LIMITED ACCESS: Access to the vulnerable people in need of urgent humanitarian assistance and protection services remains significantly restricted due to escalating armed clashes, overall insecurity and COVID-related restrictions across the country. National and international humanitarian organisations are facing the presence of checkpoints, road blockages and a cumbersome TA system. In addition, COVID-19 related restrictions in particular have left thousands of people in the IDP camps and displacement sites with inadequate food and limited access to livelihoods and health care. This situation has been exacerbated by challenges related to transport, logistics, a cash crisis and shortages of supplies. On a more positive note, 8 out of 16 displacement sites in Buthidaung, Ponnagyun and Rathedaung townships, housing people affected by the armed conflict between the MAF and the AA, and 13 displacement sites in Minbya, Mrauk-U and Myebon townships have been reclassified by the de facto authorities as "accessible". Partners are encouraged to include these reclassified sites in their monthly TA applications to provide multi-sectoral humanitarian support to these vulnerable families.

Since 1 February, disrupted banking services and limited availability of cash have negatively impacted the delivery of humanitarian activities, including distribution of cash assistance and procurement processes, resulting in a large-scale suspension of many cash-related interventions. Partners managed to resume cash distributions to more than 100 IDP camps in a dozen of townships in Kachin State since the end of August, which benefitted 45,000 people. However, in some areas in the control of EAOs, their efforts are met with challenges due to mounting commission fees, safety and COVID-19 prevention measures.

COVID-19 UPDATE: The number of reported COVID-19 cases and fatalities which had been on the rise since June, declined in September. Between 1 and 29 September, a total of 63,326 cases and 2,293 deaths were reported countrywide. This is a significant decrease in cases confirmed countrywide compared to previous months, with over 100,000 cases and 6,000 deaths reported in August alone. The number of tests remains extremely limited however, suggesting that the reported numbers provide an incomplete picture but may still be indicative of trends. Extensive vaccinations for various groups, including citizens aged above 55, people with disabilities, members of EAOs and people at displacement sites and camps, reportedly started on 14 September. Countrywide, more than 7.8 million people reportedly received one vaccine and 3.8 million people received had received two doses as of 28 September.

"Stay-at-home" restrictions were lifted in six townships in Ayeyarwady, Bago and Sagaing regions, while more than 100 townships across the country remain under such restrictions. Public holidays, which had been effective starting from 17 July, ended on 12 September. However, schools continue to be closed until 24 October. Partners are supporting people to receive COVID-care 19 and other essential health services, while sustaining lifesaving humanitarian operations (see below).

COVID-19 PREVENTION AND RESPONSE SEPTEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

- **Protection partners** provided COVID-19 awareness sessions in Kachin, Chin and Rakhine states as well as Yangon Region, benefiting 1,080 people. Partners continue to provide support to the quarantine centres in Matupi and Paletwa townships in Chin State. In addition, partners distributed COVID-19 prevention items, including masks, hand sanitiser, personal protective equipment (PPE) and soap for vulnerable and displaced households in Kachin and northern Shan.
- **Health partners** provided oxygen therapy and essential medicines to hospitals and communities in Chin and Kayin, as well as renovated water installation systems for IDP camps and community quarantine centres in several townships in Kachin. Partners also reached 10,800 people with COVID-19 awareness sessions, including across IDP camps in Kachin and Kayin states. Nearly 80 COVID-19 positive patients received cash and nutrition packages in 7 IDP camps in Myitkyina and Waimaw townships. Information, education and communication materials were translated in local languages in Kachin State. Partners supported community-based clinics in several townships in northern Shan and provided life-saving primary health care services in Kayin states.
- **Nutrition partners** continue to follow COVID-19 prevention measures, including hand hygiene, physical distancing, ventilation and using disinfectant solutions at nutrition facilities. They distributed masks to children and carers at the service centres. The **Food Security Cluster** conducted a survey in villages in northern and central parts of Rakhine to assess basic needs, due to the impacts of the COVID-19 outbreak.

REGULAR HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE HIGHLIGHTS

Protection

- Nationwide, Child Protection (CP) partners continue to reach children in areas beyond the coverage of the 2021 Humanitarian Response Plan. Partners responded to more than 800 cases through referrals and case management in states and regions of Chin, Kayah, Shan, Bago, Mandalay, Sagaing and Yangon, while remotely responding to cases in other parts of the country. Around 330 adolescents received psychosocial support through a one-on-one online texting platform in September.
- In Shan and Rakhine, a dozen children received psychosocial support (PSS), cash assistance of 50,000 Myanmar kyat (approx. US\$ 28) per person, as well as child protection kits. CP partners provided 600 toys and stationery for children displaced in Kyaukme Township, while 150 toys and stationery were sent to Monekoe Township in Muse District.
- In Rakhine, 650 children from IDP camps in Sittwe township received child protection kits. Partners reached over 1,300 people from specific locations, including Mrauk-U and Sittwe townships with child protection knowledge, parenting tips, life skills and recreational activities. Partners in Mrauk-U Township responded to nine new cases.
- In Rakhine, northern Shan, Kachin, Kayin and Mon, gender-based violence (GBV) partners continued to deliver life-saving prevention and response services, including psychosocial support, safe houses for survivors, and referrals to sexual and reproductive health and rights support, in-person or remotely. Legal services remain available in Rakhine, while they have been on hold in northern Shan, where GBV survivors receive extended services from public hospitals. Partners conducted trainings on mental health and psychosocial support and referral pathways for local partners in Sittwe Township in Rakhine as well as in southern Shan. Meanwhile, they provided 880 clean delivery kits and dignity kits for displaced people in Kyaukme and Monekoe townships in northern Shan as well as in Laiza, Mai Ja Yang and Waingmaw townships in Kachin. In Kayin and Mon, survivors can access clinical care at public hospitals and clinics run by non-government organisations. Partners distributed 3,750 dignity kits and clean delivery kits to women and girls displaced in Kayah and southern Shan and people affected by floods in Kyarinnseikkyi and Thandaunggyi townships in Kayin as well as Kyaikmaraw and Mawlamyine townships in Mon. In addition, partners provided a further 1,000 dignity kits for pre-positioning at displacement sites in Kyethi, Laihka and Mongkaing townships.

Health

- In Rakhine, partners have provided services through mobile clinics, while sustaining emergency referral support in Maungdaw Township that benefitted over 40 patients.
- In Kachin, partners continued to deliver life-saving health care and nutrition services to almost 40,000 people in 20 IDP camps. Around 35,000 vulnerable people in 27 villages and 7 IDP camps have been receiving essential health care services. Partners are responding to alerts related to the detection of public health threats, which are identified by the Early Warning, Alert and Response System (EWARS). WHO provided Inter-agency Emergency Health Kits to ensure essential health care services continue in hard-to-reach locations, including IDP camps, despite the COVID-19 outbreak.

Education in Emergencies

- Education spaces across Myanmar remain closed since mid-July due to the surge in COVID-19 cases.
- Education Cluster partners contributed to the development of open learning materials, which are inclusive for children and caregivers with disabilities. These learning materials are now available to all partners.
- The Education Cluster is reviewing its structure and will update its capacity following its national activation.

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

- In Kachin, partners have resumed shelter construction, repair and renovation in IDP camps, while the number of units in new shelter projects has been reduced due to the increased cost of construction materials. The Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Cluster continues to assess the situation facing more than 4,000 newly displaced people. Cluster partners ensured continuity of operations despite challenges with cash withdrawals due to the cash liquidity crisis.
- In central Rakhine, cluster partners completed almost 140 longhouses for 6,000 displaced people in Sittwe and Pauktaw townships, while the construction of a further 750 shelters is been on hold due to limited funding. More than 40,000 people in new displacement sites in Kyauktaw, Minbya, Mrauk-U and Myebon received shelter and essential household items. CCCM Cluster partners received over 3,600 complaints to address from the functioning camp-wide complaint-response mechanisms. In addition, partners managed to conduct targeted multi-sectoral awareness campaigns on the complaint-response mechanism, COVID-19 prevention and water-borne diseases for 2,700 vulnerable displaced people in Pauktaw and Sittwe townships. From 16 to 29 September, partners completed the construction of temporary learning spaces, and conducted simulation exercises for emergency non-food item assessments for people with specific needs and camp cleaning campaigns in many IDP camps. In parallel, partners distributed close to 200 emergency and hygiene kits to displaced families in Kayah and Kayin states.

Nutrition

- In Rakhine, partners continued provision of nutritional support and operations in health and nutrition mobile clinics for vulnerable children, pregnant and lactating women, despite challenges related to access and the COVID-19 outbreak. They provided close to 100 cartons of ready-to-use therapeutic food (RUTF), 30 packages of medical nutrition therapy, 7,300 packages of micro-nutrient powder, 100 cartons of tapes to measure children's mid-upper arm circumference and 2,500 sheets of social and behavior change communication pamphlets to ensure mobile clinics have stocks of nutrition supplies.
- In northern Shan, partners provided therapeutic milk and Vitamin A supplies for vulnerable children in hard-to-reach areas and conducted community infant and young child feeding counselling to ethnic health organisations to further educate affected communities.

Food Security

- In Rakhine, 19,220 displaced and vulnerable people from Maungdaw, Mrauk-U and Sittwe townships received cash assistance to cover needs for food and COVID-19 prevention materials. In addition, partners conducted trainings for civil society organisations and vendors to lead the cash and voucher assistance programme. In Kachin, partners provided emergency livelihood skills trainings to about 30 displaced people in Moemauk and Waingmaw townships. A total of 60 displaced people in Bhamo Township received gardening kits as well. Partners distributed agricultural handbooks to more than 120 beneficiaries across both states. In Kayah, close to

40,000 displaced people benefitted from rice distribution. Partners trained more than 40 IDP returnees in Demoso Township and about 30 of them received cash grants to re-establish their livelihoods. In Kayah, close to 40,000 displaced people benefitted from rice distributions.

For further information, please contact:

David Carden, Head of Office, carden@un.org, Tel: +95 1 230 56 82-84

Danielle Parry, Deputy Head of Office, parryd@un.org, Tel: +66 627157176

Jennifer Bose Ratka, Public Information Officer a.i., bose.ratka@un.org, Cell +216 25370089

For more information, please visit www.unocha.org | <https://reliefweb.int/country/mmr> | <https://www.facebook.com/OCHAMyanmar/>