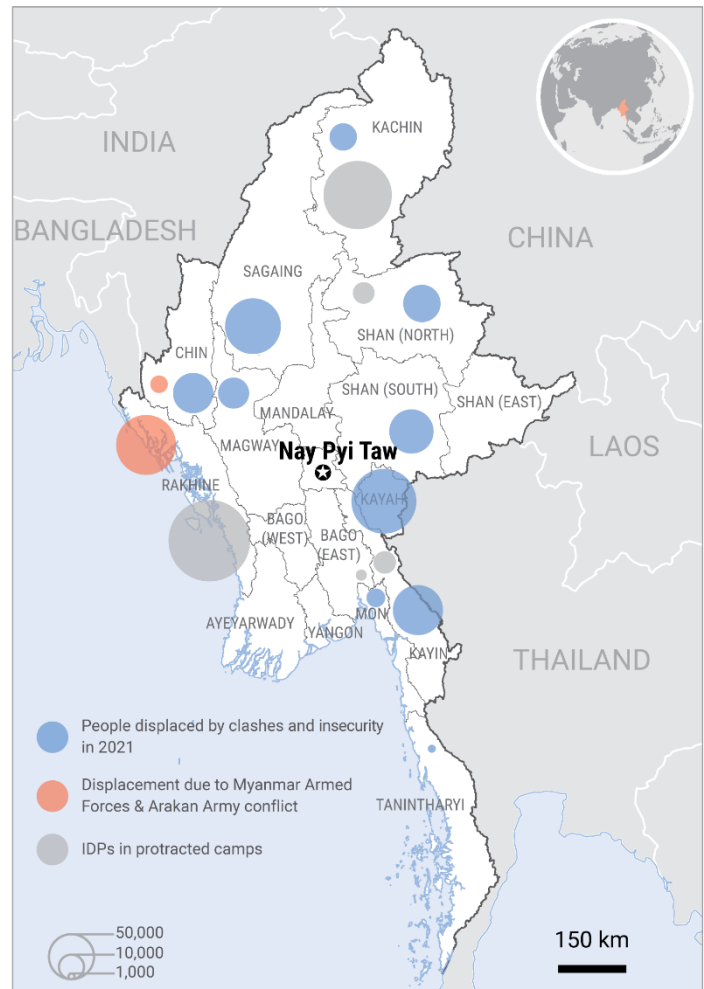


This regular update, covering humanitarian developments from 1 and 26 December, is produced by OCHA Myanmar in collaboration with the Inter-Cluster Coordination Group and UNHCR. The January Humanitarian update will be issued in early February 2022.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- The security and humanitarian situation across Myanmar remains tense, with continued armed clashes in multiple states and regions, resulting in additional loss of life, destruction of civilian property and increasing internal and cross-border displacement.
- On 24 December, at least 35 civilians, including four children and two humanitarian actors, were killed and burnt in Kayah State, south-eastern Myanmar.
- As of 27 December, an estimated 320,900 people remained internally displaced across Myanmar due to clashes and insecurity since 1 February 2021. This is in addition to the 340,000 people living in protracted displacement before February 2021.
- A small number of partners were able to reach IDPs and other affected people in acute conflict areas during December, but greater access remains critical for the urgent delivery of humanitarian assistance to hundreds of thousands of vulnerable people.
- At the end of the year, the Humanitarian Response plan was 58 per cent funded receiving US\$225.3 million of the \$385.7 million requested for 2021. In 2022, the humanitarian community requires increased funding to bring in additional resources to scale up its efforts to address the unmet and escalating needs.
- On 31 December, the [2022 Humanitarian Needs Overview](#) was published identifying 14.4 million people in need. The 2022 Humanitarian Response Plan will be published by the end of January outlining efforts to reach 6.2 million people with assistance and requiring \$826 million.



### KEY FIGURES\*

## 320K

people currently displaced across Myanmar by clashes and insecurity since February 2021

## 175K

people currently displaced in southeast Myanmar by insecurity and clashes since February 2021

## 132K

people currently displaced in Chin State, Magway and Sagaing regions by clashes and insecurity since May 2021

## 17K

people currently displaced in Shan since January 2021 and in Kachin since March 2021 due to clashes and insecurity

\*Displacement figures fluctuate during any given month. These figures represent the number of people currently displaced. Cumulative numbers for returns and displacement are not always available.

## SITUATION OVERVIEW

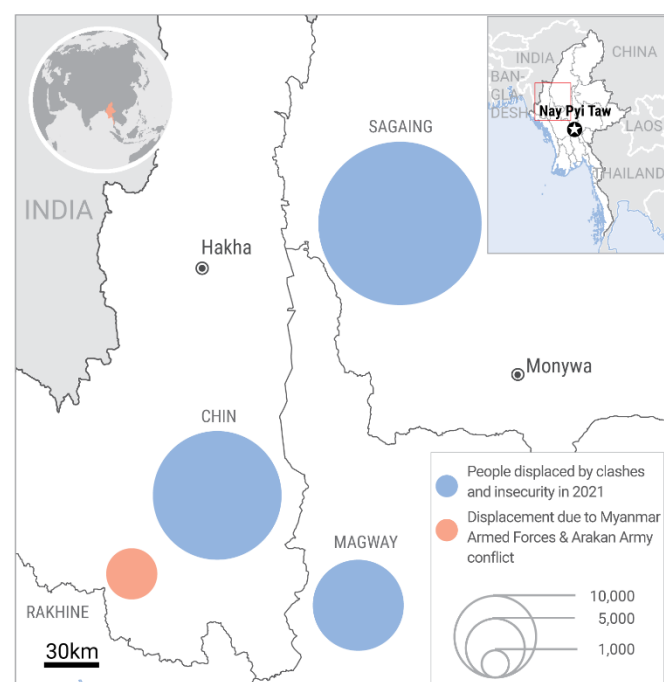
The security and humanitarian situation in Myanmar remains volatile, with civilians bearing the brunt of ongoing armed clashes between the Myanmar Armed Forces (MAF) and Ethnic Armed Organisations (EAOs) and/or various PDFs, as well as between EAOs, in multiple states and regions. In Kayin and Kayah states, as well as Magway and Sagaing regions, clashes have intensified, resulting in increasing civilian casualties, destruction of civilian properties and internal and cross-border displacement.

Since the February military takeover, more than 2,200 houses and other civilian properties have reportedly either been burnt down or destroyed, mainly in Chin (800), Kayah (654), Sagaing (529), and Magway (223). As of 27 December 2021, an estimated 320,900 people were internally displaced due to clashes and insecurity since 1 February, according to UNHCR figures. The southeast of the country (Kayin, Kayah and southern Shan) recorded the highest new internal displacement with 175,700 IDPs (55 per cent), followed by the northwest part (Sagaing, Magway and Chin) with 132,200 IDPs (41 per cent), Shan with 14,400 IDPs (four per cent) and Kachin with 3,200 IDPs (one per cent). In addition, 340,000 people remain displaced due to earlier conflicts before 2021. This includes 106,800 people in protracted displacement camps (since 2011) in Kachin and northern Shan; 144,000, mostly Rohingya people, in camps in Rakhine State (since 2012); and 79,900 people displaced in Rakhine State and southern Chin due to conflict between the Arakan Army (AA) and the MAF from early 2019 and late 2020. More than 19,000 people have crossed the borders into neighbouring countries since February 2021.

With only 58 per cent of the requested funding (US\$225.3 million out of \$385.7 million) received in 2021, the UN and its humanitarian partners succeeded in providing record levels of life-saving assistance and protection services. As of early December, the humanitarian response reached more than 2.4 million out of the three million people in need identified in the original [2021 Humanitarian Response Plan](#) and subsequent [Myanmar Interim Emergency Response Plan \(June-December\)](#). Final full-year figures for 2021 will be available in February 2022. Despite this significant scale-up, humanitarian needs continue to grow. In 2022, humanitarians estimate [14.4 million people are in humanitarian need](#) and have prioritized 6.2 million for urgent assistance. To meet these needs \$826 million in funding and expanded access will be required.

## DIRE HUMANITARIAN SITUATION IN THE NORTHWEST

The security and humanitarian situation in northwest Myanmar has further deteriorated due to intensified hostilities between the MAF and the Chinland Defence Force (CDF) and/or PDFs in Chin State, as well as Sagaing and Magway regions. This has resulted in civilian casualties, internal displacement and destruction of civilian properties, particularly



in Sagaing and Magway regions. The number of displaced people has significantly increased in both regions, where hundreds of houses and other civilian properties, including churches, monasteries and schools in several townships have reportedly been burnt down or destroyed due to airstrikes during the reporting period.

In Sagaing Region, armed clashes were reported in multiple villages across 10 townships (Kale, Kanbalu, Kani, Kyunhla, Mingin, Monywa, Pale, Tabayin, Taze and Ye-U). The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights issued a [statement](#) on the reported killing and burning of 11 people, including five children, in Salingyi Township on 7 December, in alleged retaliation for recent militia attacks. Thousands of people in several villages were displaced due to armed clashes, including the launching of airstrikes, on Kale Township on 23 December. More than 240 houses in several villages (150 houses in Pale township and 91 houses in Taze township) were reportedly burnt down or destroyed during the fighting. Verified sources indicated that more than 5,500 people were newly displaced in Kanbalu, Kani and Mingin townships between 8 and 20 December.

In Magway Region, sporadic clashes were reported in Gangaw, Myaing and Saw townships during December. Approximately 50 houses and other civilian properties, including one monastery and one school, in Hnan Khar and other villages were burnt down or destroyed. As a result, more than 8,000 people were displaced in these townships. In Chin State, armed clashes between the MAF and the Chinland Defence Force (CDF) continued unabated in Kanpetlet, Mindat and Paletwa townships and several clashes were reported between the CDF and the Zomi Revolutionary Army in Tedim Township. No new displacement was reported. To date, more than 33,800 people remain displaced in six townships since the fighting resumed May 2021, and an additional 6,335 IDPs, who were displaced by earlier AA-MAF conflict, remain hosted in Paletwa Township.

Overall, more than 1,550 houses and other civilian properties in the country's northwest have been burnt down since May 2021. These include 800 properties in Chin State, 529 in Sagaing, and 223 in Magway regions. Approximately 132,200 people are currently displaced due to hostilities and insecurity since May 2021 when the fighting resumed in these areas; this includes 78,300 IDPs in Sagaing Region, 20,100 IDPs in Magway Region and 33,800 IDPs in six townships in Chin State. Shortages of food, fuel, warm clothes and medical supplies remain a concern for displaced people and host communities across the northwest.

Humanitarian access to people in need in conflict areas remains restricted due to the security situation, military checkpoints and lack of access approvals. Local partners have been providing basic assistance to newly displaced people where possible, but this is not sufficient to address the scale of emerging needs. WFP was able to provide two-month food rations to 100 IDPs in Mindat Township, Chin State in late December 2021. However, hundreds of thousands of people across the country are still without sufficient food, medicine, shelter and clothing.

### **THE HIGHEST CIVILIAN CASUALTIES RECORDED IN KAYAH SINCE MILITARY TAKEOVER**

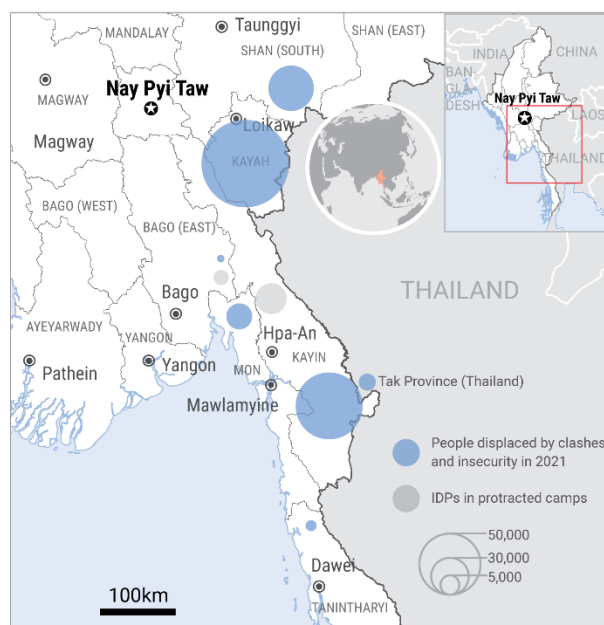
Fighting between the MAF and EAOs and/or local PDFs escalated across southeast Myanmar at the end of 2021, raising grave protection and humanitarian concerns, particularly in Kayah and Kayin states, heading into 2022.

In December 2021, Kayah State recorded one of the highest single-day casualty figures following an incident that occurred in Hpruso township, where at least 35 civilians, including four children and two humanitarian workers, were burnt and killed. Save the Children condemned the attack and confirmed that its two staff were among the victims. The United Nations and other humanitarian organisations as well as the [United States](#) and [European Union](#) have also condemned all attacks against civilians and called upon accountability for the perpetrators. The Emergency Relief Coordinator, Martin Griffiths, expressed his horror over the 24 December incident in a [statement](#) where he called on “the Myanmar Armed Forces and all armed groups in Myanmar to take all measures to protect civilians from harm.”

The UN Security Council members also released a [statement](#), condemning the attack, calling for the “immediate cessation of all violence and emphasized the importance of respect for human rights and of ensuring safety of civilians.”

This deadly incident happened during ongoing fighting between the MAF and the allied forces of the Karenni Army, Karenni Nationalities Defence Force (KNDF) and local PDFs in Demoso, Hpruso and Loikaw townships, which resulted in the confirmed displacement of more than 1,000 people in the area by the end of December. The actual number of people displaced is ultimately likely to be much higher with fighting ongoing into January. An estimated 20 houses and barns in two villages in Loikaw Township were burnt down or destroyed by arson attacks and mortars on 20 December, bringing the total number of civilian properties burnt or destroyed to more than 650 houses, six churches and a clinic in three townships in Kayah and one township in southern Shan between 21 May and 20 December 2021.

In parallel, armed clashes have also intensified between the combined forces of the MAF and the Border Guard Force (BGF) and the allied forces of the Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA), the Karen National Defence Organisation (KNDO), the Democratic Karen Benevolent Army (DKBA) and PDFs in Myawaddy and Kawkareik townships in Kayin State, near the Myanmar-Thai border. The MAF launched several airstrikes and deployed heavy artillery, shelling in and around Law Kay Kaw Town and several villages. Two civilians, who were sheltering with other IDPs, were killed



by the shelling, and more than 22,000 people were displaced. More than 4,700<sup>1</sup> of those displaced crossed the border to Thailand, while the rest sought refuge in schools and monasteries in nearby villages within Myawaddy Township or went into hiding in the jungle along the Thauung Yin (Moei) River. Humanitarian access to the new IDPs in Kayin State remains restricted because of the ongoing fighting and insecurity and lack of access permissions. Local communities as well as CBOs and CSOs have been providing these IDPs with food, water and other basic assistance where possible.

The security situation in other parts of southeast Myanmar remains volatile with displacement and returns continuing. More than 800 people temporarily displaced in Kyaukkyi Township in eastern Bago Region and about 250 people temporarily displaced in Dawei Township, Tanintharyi Region, were able to return to their places of origin.

Overall, UNHCR estimates that as of 27 December, 175,700 people remained displaced across southeast Myanmar and in Thailand. This includes 87,800 people in Kayah, 21,200 people in southern Shan, 52,100 people in Kayin, 7,200 people in Mon, 1,300 people in Tanintharyi Region and 600 people in Bago Region.

Given the intensity of the conflict and the implications for aid worker safety, several humanitarian partners have temporarily suspended their operations in the southeast.

### **DISPLACEMENT CONTINUES AMID ONGOING CONFLICT IN THE NORTHEAST**

Internal displacement of civilians persists in Kachin and Shan states as armed clashes continued between the MAF and EAOs or among EAOs in northern and southern Shan and between the MAF and an EAO in Kachin State.

Since early December, intensified armed clashes have been reported between the MAF and the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDAA) in Hseni, Kutkai, Lashio, Mongyai and Muse townships in Shan State. Similarly, armed clashes intensified between the MAF and other EAOs and PDFs, as well as between EAOs in Mongkaing and Pekon townships in southern Shan. Two civilians, who were caught in crossfire at a tollgate in Kutkai Township, sustained injuries, and one primary school and one house in a village in Lashio Township were damaged by shelling. In addition, more than 350 people were newly displaced in Mongkaing Township. In parallel, small-scale IDP returns were documented in Muse township during the reporting period. As of 27 December, approximately 14,400 out of the 47,650, who were displaced in Shan State due to insecurity and armed clashes since the beginning of 2021, are still displaced and are staying in 9 townships across the state. This includes 7,324 IDPs in Hsipaw, Kyaukme, Lashio and Muse townships in the north and 7,015 IDPs in Laikha, Kunhing, Kyethi, Mongpan and Mongkaing townships in the south.

The security situation across Kachin State has also been unstable since March 2021. During December, armed clashes, that included ground attacks and airstrikes, between the MAF and the combined forces of the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) and local PDFs were reported in several townships. Consequently, approximately 150 people from N Goi Kahtawng Village in Mohnyin Township were displaced to Manau Park, a church or into the forest due to the presence of MAF troops in their village. Similarly, due to fighting in Pyun Thone Lone Village in Mogaung Township, a woman was injured and approximately 90 people fled their homes to a monastery in the same village. The displaced families received support from the village administrator and community members. On 24 December, reports indicated that one civilian was killed, and another five civilians were injured, and two backhoes were damaged by an explosion of an artillery shell that landed in a jade mining site in Hpakant Township. Since the fighting resumed in the area in March 2021, a total of 15,500 people have been displaced in Kachin. This is in addition to more than 97,200 people, who remain in protracted displacement as a result of prior conflict since 2011. The majority of IDPs who were displaced in 2021 have since returned to their places of origin, but about 3,200 people remained displaced in four townships of Kachin.

## **HUMANITARIAN ACCESS**

Ongoing COVID-19 restrictions, limited availability of cash and supplies as well as road blockages due to armed conflict continue to pose key challenges for the humanitarian operations on the ground. At the same time, increasingly slow and complex bureaucratic processes, including delays and denials of Travel Authorizations (TAs), the volatile security situation and increased scrutiny of humanitarian supplies and personnel have further hampered the timely delivery of critical assistance and healthcare services to rising numbers of people in need.

<sup>1</sup> As of 31 December. See [UNHCR Inter-Agency Operational Update](#)

Humanitarian workers continue to partner with local civil society organisations and community-based organisations to sustain life-saving responses in isolated areas. Provision of safe, unconditional, and predictable humanitarian access to all people in need is imperative to ensure assistance can reach those most in need. Furthermore, the humanitarian community requires increased funding to bring in additional resources and improved access to scale up efforts to address the unmet and escalating needs in 2022.

## HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE HIGHLIGHTS

### Protection

#### Needs:

- Monitoring and clearance of landmine contamination in conflict areas, as well as arising awareness around landmine and Explosive remnants of war (ERW) risks among IDPs and other affected people remain urgent needs. During the first 10 months of 2021, 131 landmine/ERW incidents resulting in 217 casualties (76 fatalities; 141 injuries) were documented countrywide, according to UNICEF.
- Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) and victim assistance activities should be prioritised in conflict areas, particularly in northwest Myanmar.
- Mental health and psychosocial support, victim assistance and explosive ordnance risk education are still urgently needed in Kyauktaw, Minbya and Mrauk-U townships in the Rakhine (KAP survey by Humanity Inclusion with the First Line Emergency Response (FLER) partners, Dec 2021).
- Women and girls in conflict-affected areas are in need of livelihood support, including training, given the economic hardship that they have been facing in 2021.
- In central areas of Rakhine, reports of child recruitment by armed organisations, trafficking and extortion increased in December, with arbitrary and unlawful detentions also reported.
- Increase in petty crime has been noted linked with negative coping mechanisms due to rising commodity prices and reduced livelihood opportunities in central Rakhine.
- IDPs in surveyed displacement sites and villages in 13 townships in Kachin and northern Shan are concerned about their safety due to escalating armed clashes in nearby places (Rapid Assessment, Dec 2021).

#### Response:

- Protection services were provided in 68 displacement sites, 20 camps for IDPs and 97 villages in central areas of Rakhine.
- In Kachin, Protection Cluster partners have been conducting an “IDP Intention Survey” since November to understand IDPs’ present and future plans for return. To date, 70 per cent of the 300 targeted IDP families in different sites across eight townships have been surveyed.
- UNICEF’s implementing partners delivered four EORE Training of Trainers (ToT) sessions in northern Shan, the southeast, northern Rakhine and central Rakhine. Areas of Responsibility (AoR) members also delivered trainings to staff, community members and CBOs across the country.
- UNICEF has prioritized IEC material distribution to partners and local organizations that are facing logistics challenges. Mine action awareness is being mainstreamed into the messaging of other clusters such as WASH and Child Protection.
- All Child Friendly Spaces (CFS) in six camps in Sittwe Township are now fully operational after follow-up by Child Protection partners with the Rakhine authorities.
- Protection partners organised a series of trainings for CSOs and CBOs to provide support in case management when needed.
- Gender-Based Violence (GBV) partners continue to deliver life-saving assistance, including case management, psychosocial support and safehouses for survivors in various conflict-affected areas. Prevention and community engagement activities resumed while observing the COVID-19 preventive measures. Some partners provided legal and health support, but this is still limited in scope.
- In Rakhine, the GBV Sub-cluster has strengthened its coordination with food security actors, including WFP, to ensure timely referral services for GBV survivors.
- In southern Shan, one partner started providing GBV health services through mobile clinics in Nansang and Mongnai townships, and GBV referral information is being finalized for southern Shan and Kayah.
- GBV partners have been sharing the findings of GBV safety audits with other cluster/sector partners on a regular basis and working collaboratively to mitigate against identified risks.
- GBV partners provided women and girls in several townships in Kayah, Mon and Rakhine with 2,200 dignity kits. Menstrual hygiene management kits were provided in Kayah, Mon, Rakhine and southern Shan states as part of the emergency response. GBV partners plan to provide 17,700 sanitary pads in the first quarter of 2022.
- A mapping exercise on GBV and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) services is underway in Chin State with another developed for northern Shan.

- From 25 November to 10 December, the 16 days of activism against GBV were held across the country through virtual events, as well as at community and camp levels, to raise awareness about GBV and mobilize people to take action.
- The Protection Cluster endorsed the Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) inter-cluster strategy and developed communication materials for COVID-19, trafficking, and PSEA campaigns.
- A national mine action strategy for 2022 is being developed and should be approved by MA AoR members in January.

#### Gaps & Constraints:

- In most conflict-affected areas, the humanitarian response is being hampered by security concerns.
- In Kachin and northern Shan, in particular, insecurity continues to hinder vulnerable people's access to basic services.
- Access issues remain a challenge for partners to reach IDPs in camps and host communities in many areas in central Rakhine, mainly in Sittwe Township.
- Partners could not access IDP sites in Monekoe Township, northern Shan to provide dignity kits for women and girls due to intense armed clashes. Lack of adequate access to health care services contributes to avoidable deaths. Existing Protection partner capacity is not sufficient to meet current EORE needs. EORE is also not perceived as a life-saving activity by the de facto authorities and TAs for these critical activities are being routinely denied.
- Funding to support Mine Action remains a challenge.
- In Rakhine State, fear of landmine contamination is a major challenge for returning IDPs, who were displaced due to the AA-MAF conflict in 2019. Fear of possible resumption of clashes is also hindering the IDPs return process.
- Some procedural challenges around the issuance of citizenship identity cards have been identified, including having to apply at villages of origin, presenting a barrier for many IDPs. Lack of documentation impacts their freedom of movement and access to basic services.

## Health

#### Needs:

- A total of 286 attacks on health care services were recorded across the country between 1 February and 31 December. A total of 26 health workers, volunteers and patients were killed, 64 were injured, 168 personnel and 85 patients were otherwise affected, and 31 medical vehicles vandalized during these attacks ([WHO Surveillance System for Attacks on Health Care](#)).
- There is a need to provide COVID-19 surveillance and contact tracing services in 262 townships.
- There is a need to provide COVID-19 Laboratory & Diagnosis services in 32 townships
- There is a need to provide COVID-19 confirmed case management and treatment services in 46 townships.
- In Rakhine, health and nutrition services for women of reproductive age, adolescents and children under 5 need to be scaled up.

#### Response:

- Health cluster partners conducted COVID-19 awareness activities for 14,350 people in Maungdaw Township between October and December.
- Health partners distributed face masks and soap to 160 people in Sittwe Township.
- Hygiene kits were distributed to 5,570 people in Minbya Township in the 4th quarter of 2021.
- COVID-19 Response Committees were established in 10 targeted villages in Rathedaung Township. Each committee received ten test kits, two oximeters and one sewing machine with cloth and sewing equipment to produce masks.
- In Chin State, partners provided healthcare to 290 COVID-19 patients in Hakha Township and continued to collaborate with local actors to sustain provision of COVID-19 care.
- In Kayin State, 180 sets of mother and neonatal essentials, as well as 800 sets of clothes and stationery for children under five years were distributed in Hpapun Township, benefiting 10,000 IDPs.
- Five Inter-agency Emergency Health Kits (IEHK) in addition to level 1 and 2 personal protective equipment (PPE) were provided to ethnic health organisations in Kawkareik Township to provide primary health care services to 5,000 displaced people.

#### Gaps & Constraints:

- Nationwide, withdrawing cash either through ATMs, other agents or banks continues to be a challenge.
- In Rakhine, provision of health care services continues to be a challenge due to delays in obtaining or extending MoUs and TAs.

- In Chin, transportation of commodities and medicines is a challenge due to armed clashes and insecurity.
- In Kachin, some camps are still inaccessible due to COVID-19 restrictions.

## Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

### Needs:

- New IDPs in Hsipaw and Kyaukme townships in Shan State are in urgent need of WASH support, including emergency latrines, deep tube wells, communal bathing spaces, basic hygiene and dignity kits, handwashing stations, child potties, waste bins, community life straw water filters and other COVID-19 preventative items (WASH Cluster Rapid Assessment, 13-14 November).

### Response:

- In December, WASH partners provided more than 990 water filters, 80 water buckets and 6,220 hygiene kits to IDPs in the northwest of Myanmar, including 19,300 IDPs in 5 townships in Rakhine, at Saw in Sagaing and two townships in Chin.
- WASH partners renovated more than 2,000 latrines, 360 tube wells and a pond, and conducted hygiene promotion sessions for 6,660 IDPs in Pauktaw and Sittwe townships in Rakhine.
- In Kachin, partners provided regular and COVID-19 related WASH facilities and services, including desludging, installation of handwashing stations, renovation of existing water supply and sanitation facilities, distribution of hygiene kits and soap as well as conducting hygiene behaviour change sessions to 76,590 IDPs, including those in protracted camps.
- In northern Shan, WASH actors provided IDPs in Hsipaw and Kyaukme townships with emergency WASH support, including six emergency latrines, two deep tube wells, 12 communal bathing spaces, basic hygiene and dignity items for 2,940 people, 40 handwashing stations, 1,300 bars of soap, 30 child potties, 20 waste bins, six community life straw water filters and other COVID-19 preventive items.
- Partners distributed 1,020 emergency hygiene kits and 100 water buckets to families who remain displaced in 5 townships in southern Shan.

### Gaps & Constraints:

- In most conflict-affected areas, efforts of partners to respond to the emerging needs of IDPs are being hampered by persistent access issues, armed clashes and insecurity.
- Partners in Rakhine were unable to provide essential WASH support to 7,000 IDPs in 27 new displacement sites due to lack of TAs and reduced capacity among WASH partners.
- In Chin, Sagaing and Magway in particular, partners were not able to reach 17,110 people in 100 temporary displacement sites due to access constraints.
- In Kachin, partners face challenges due to increased commodity prices and limited availability of cash.
- In northern Shan, partners are challenged by travel restrictions and limited access to new displacement sites in Monekoe sub-township due to insecurity and armed conflict.
- In Kayin, partners have limited access to the route to Myawaddy to transport humanitarian supplies.

## Education in Emergencies

### Needs:

- In the 46 townships where COVID-19 restrictions remain, the complete lack of access to education and the interruption of essential school-based services (school feeding, WASH, health services and protection referral services, including mental health and psychosocial support, gender-based violence, abuse, etc.) imply health and protection risks for all affected children.
- The lack of home-based learning and self-study/open learning materials is setting back the education of affected children even further. There is an acute need to support parents, care takers and communities with materials and training so they can provide some learning activities to children.
- Since November, dismissals and detentions of teachers as well as presence of armed personnel within school premises have been increasingly reported. Education personnel fear for their safety due to the politization of education, violence, fighting and mine risks. The lack of teachers resulting from it and the significant decrease in students' attendance in schools call for building up local partners' capacity, including engaging with local first responders to support children to continue learning in alternative settings.

### Response:

- Approximately 20,000 students are attending the Temporary Learning Spaces in IDP camps in Rakhine, where COVID-19 precautions are in place.

- After consultations at national and sub-national levels on needs and response activities, the Education Cluster is drafting its multi-year Strategy to be finalized in February. The Strategy is building on the existing 1-year Provisional EiE Strategy and is aligned with the 2022 HRP and development partner frameworks.
- Sub-national Education Cluster Contingency Plans for Kachin State and southeast Myanmar were finalized in line with existing inter-cluster preparedness plans. The work on the Contingency Plans was featured in the Global Education Cluster's Partners Forum on 7 December 2021.

#### Gaps & Constraints:

- The cluster's response is being hindered by access constraints, insecurity, and limited transport routes due to armed conflict; COVID-19 restrictions; and challenges in obtaining TAs.
- The security of local partners continues to be at risk.

### Shelter, Non-Food Items, Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM)

#### Needs:

- In December, 1,870 complaints were filed through the Complaint and Response Mechanism System in Rakhine; more than 50 per cent of the complaints related to the distribution of relief items and shelter materials. The second and third most prominent issues raised through the system were around poor shelter conditions and lack of access to livelihoods.
- In Kachin and northern Shan, IDPs in areas not controlled by the de facto authorities are in urgent need of essential NFIs, including clothes and blankets. Some IDP camps have requested cooking pots and other necessary NFIs from the responsible agencies.
- In Rakhine, 400 makeshift IDP shelters in Dar Paing camp in Sittwe Township are at risk of demolition due to land ownership issues.
- Advocacy efforts to improve access to IDPs in northern Shan.

#### Response:

- Camp management agencies have processed approximately 80 per cent of the complaints/feedback received via the the Complaint and Response Mechanism System.
- CCCM partners are distributing NFIs and reaching out to camps to identify key gaps in the distribution of relief items to include in the plan for 2022.
- In central Rakhine, partners distributed essential NFIs to about 8,000 Rohingya people, mainly with special needs, in Pauktaw and Sittwe townships.
- UNHCR reached about 1,580 people in the remote Kyauktaw IDP site Nga/Ta Yan, who had not received any support since 2019 due to inaccessibility. They distributed essential household items in coordination with the local Emergency Response Committee.

#### Gaps & Constraints:

- In northern Shan, access to people who have been recently displaced in Mongkoe, Muse Township, is limited due to clashes and insecurity. Restricted access is hindering partners' planned provision of cash assistance.

### Nutrition

#### Needs:

- The Nutrition cluster conducted trend analysis of nutrition program screening data in December 2021 and observed an increasing trend of acute malnutrition, especially in Rakhine. The increment may be due to increased food insecurity, accumulation of cases due to travel restrictions and interruption of services due to COVID-19 restrictive measures.
- Iron deficiency anemia in children and women across the country – an indicator of both poor nutrition and poor health – is contributing to low birth weight, increased morbidity and mortality requires timely actions.
- Additional resources are needed to enhance the capacity of partners to scale up integrated nutrition services in HRP prioritised areas.

#### Response:

- Cluster partners have scaled up nutrition services, integrated with health and food security related interventions in 10 states and regions to reach more children and pregnant and lactating women (PLW) with preventive and curative nutrition services.
- More than 3,500 children with severe acute malnutrition (SAM) and 5,880 children with moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) received life-saving treatment during 2021.



- A total of 110,670 children and 31,170 PLW received nutrition supplements to prevent micro-nutrient deficiency disorders.
- More than 33,080 children and 10,240 PLW received blanket supplementary feeding to prevent malnutrition.
- Partners also provided maternal, infant and young child feeding (MIYCF) counselling for 25,960 caregivers to promote optimal feeding practices.

#### Gaps & Constraints:

- Provision of nutrition support and services needs to be scaled up in prioritised townships in the states and regions of Magway, Rakhine, Shan, Ayeyarwady and Bago to meet escalating nutrition needs.
- There is limited number of partners who provide integrated preventive and curative nutrition services operational in Myanmar at the current time.

#### Food Security

##### Needs:

- In almost all conflict-affected areas, the need for food assistance and livelihood support is escalating.
- In Chin, IDPs, including children, PLWs, seniors and people with disabilities, are in urgent need of food, shelter and health care services. IDPs and other affected people are also concerned about their security and the lack of livelihood opportunities due to armed clashes (Rapid assessment, 12-15 December).
- Access to affected people in new conflict affected areas, where there is food insecurity, has become critical and joint advocacy around improved access is urgently required.
- Permission to conduct rapid assessments in conflict areas around the country is critical to confirm needs.

##### Response:

- WFP distributed food for 90,800 IDPs and other vulnerable families in Rakhine, Kachin and northern Shan;
- In Chin State, about 2,800 IDPs in Samee Township received food assistance. WFP and its partners plan to shift from delivery of food assistance to cash-based transfers for 6,200 IDPs in Paletwa and Meeza townships due to delays in TAs for use of the Sittwe-Kyauktaw-Paletwa waterway.
- WFP provided 940 IDPs in Mindat Township in Chin State with food rations for two months.
- Partners provided over 600 IDPs in Hakha Township with cash for food assistance for three months.
- In urban and peri-urban Yangon, WFP distributed food to 546,000 vulnerable people in Dala and Shwepyithar townships in November and December. Since the beginning of 2021, WFP, in partnership with CBOs/CSOs, distributed food and/or cash assistance to 1.7 million vulnerable people in five main townships in Yangon.
- As of the beginning of December, WFP had distributed food assistance to 2.42 million people nationwide since the start of 2021.
- In southeast, WFP and partners distributed food assistance through local CBOs and CSOs due to pending TAs.

#### Gaps & Constraints:

- In Rakhine and Kachin, income generating activities have been delayed due to disrupted banking services and the volatile security situation although it was possible to begin identifying beneficiaries in Momauk Township in Kachin.
- In Rakhine, some partners had to suspend food distributions in Buthidaung and Maungdaw townships since July due to MoU and TA issues.
- In the northwest, including Chin, Magway and Sagaing, access to IDPs and other vulnerable people in Kani and Mingin townships was denied despite follow up with the relevant line ministry.
- Other planned activities, including food support programmes in Tanintharyi Region, have also been on hold due to access issues.

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