

# MYANMAR | Operational Update

## KEY HIGHLIGHTS

**50,000** displaced and affected people in Myanmar supported with core relief items and shelter materials

**2,700** individuals benefited from 5 community-based projects in Rakhine State and South-East region

**750** people with specific needs benefited from relief items or cash assistance

### UNHCR PRESENCE



### POPULATION OF CONCERN

**600,000**

Estimated stateless Rohingya in Rakhine State, of which some **152,800** (as of 28 March 2022) are living in displacement camps as well as among the host community since 2012.

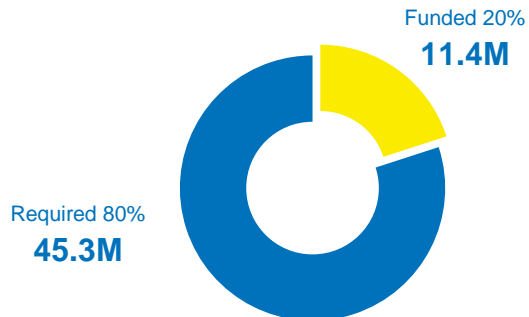
**904,600**

Internally displaced people (IDPs) living in Rakhine, Chin, Kachin, Shan, Kayin, Mon states, and Bago (east), Sagaing and Magway regions, including some **76,500** in **182 sites** (as of 28 March 2022) in Rakhine and Chin states displaced due to the AA-Tatmadaw conflict, and an estimated **558,000** (as of 28 March 2022) due to the resumption and intensification of clashes between the Tatmadaw and ethnic armed organizations (EAOs) and/or People's Defense Forces (PDF) after 1 February 2021.

### FUNDING AS OF 29 MARCH 2022

**USD 56.7M**

requested for Myanmar in 2022



\*The team is temporarily redeployed in Taunggyi for security reasons.

## STRATEGIC PRIORITIES | UNHCR Myanmar 2022

**UNHCR is working with partners to** 1) **Ensure access to people of concern** and people-centred delivery on protection and solutions. 2) **Support a favourable protection environment** so that people of concern have access to rights, services, and sustainable solutions. 3) **Provide responsive humanitarian protection and assistance delivery**, maintain basic safeguards, and prevent forced returns, while building resilience and phased pathways to durable solutions for displaced and stateless populations. 4) **Swiftly respond** to evolving operational context and needs, harnessing existing data and assessment tools to inform programming, address gaps, and respond to populations at heightened risk. 5) **Address urgent needs and reduce dependency** to humanitarian assistance through building resilience. 6) **Maintain protection leadership** through standards setting and effective coordination and operational delivery. 7) Promote principled and **protection sensitive responses as well as the nexus** between humanitarian and development interventions. **Find UNHCR's Global Appeal 2022 [here](#).**

### South-East

- The security situation in the South-East (SE) continues to deteriorate with intensified armed clashes between the Tatmadaw and ethnic armed organizations (EAOs) and/or People's Defense Forces (PDF), including indiscriminate artillery shelling. An estimated 231,800 people were displaced as of 28 March 2022. Displacement movements have been reported, mostly between Kayin and Mon states, Tanintharyi Region; Loikaw, Kayah, and Shan (South) states. Displaced populations in the SE continue to experience significant challenges in accessing basic needs and services, in particular food, water, healthcare, and shelter materials. While humanitarian needs increase, humanitarian access continues to be hindered by insecurity, roadblocks, land mine risks, and logistical constraints.
- During the reporting period, UNHCR and its partners ensured the provision of **core relief items (CRI) including mosquito nets, blankets, kitchen sets, sleeping mats, sanitary and winterization kits to 13,000 IDPs** in Shan (South) and Kayah states, across over 100 locations. In Kayin State, UNHCR distributed CRIs and shelter materials to 4,800 IDPs.
- To support the COVID-19 prevention and response, **UNHCR distributed beds, mattresses and bedsheets in two hospitals which serve around 18,000 individuals** in Kayin State. Furthermore, 20,000 face masks were distributed in various collective centres where displaced families reside in Shan State (South).
- UNHCR's partner conducted a **mine risk education (MRE) awareness raising session targeting 133 IDPs** living in Myawaddy Township, Kayin State.



*Distribution of core relief items in an IDP camp in Kayin State © UNHCR*

### Rakhine and North-West

- As of 28 March, over 76,500 people remain displaced across 182 sites and in host communities in Rakhine and Chin (South) states due to conflict between the Arakan Army (AA) and Tatmadaw. In addition, some 227,300 individuals remain displaced in Sagaing Region, 45,000 in Magway Region and 36,300 Chin State since 1 February. Some 33,600 people are estimated to have sought refuge in neighbouring India.
- Acute watery diarrhea (AWD) – affecting mostly children – continues to be reported in IDP camps, villages, and displacement sites in Rakhine (Central). Timely treatment is hampered by inadequate health care and water and sanitation facilities, movement constraints, systemic discrimination and segregation.
- Since January 2022, UNHCR and its partners distributed emergency shelter materials, including ropes, tarpaulin, and bamboo poles to some 2,800 IDPs in Rakhine (Central). Additionally, some 1,200 individuals moved into transitional shelters that had been reconstructed by UNHCR and partners, providing a secure and healthy environment with privacy and dignity.
- UNHCR and its partners distributed core relief items, including blankets, kitchen sets, mosquito nets, buckets to 10,500 individuals living in displacement sites and IDP camps in Rakhine (Central) and to 8,000 individuals in Rakhine (North) State.
- 300 people with specific needs (PSN), including elderly, people with disabilities, children, people with serious medical conditions, and female headed households, were identified and supported with core relief items in Rakhine (North) State.
- As part of its COVID-19 response, UNHCR distributed personal protective equipment (PPE) items to some 1,100 individuals in Rakhine (Central) and distributed over 10,000 face masks, gloves and hand sanitizers to community health wards in Rakhine (North) State.
- Four community-based projects were completed in Rakhine (North) State, including the renovation of a water pond and roads. Despite lack of access to the area, UNHCR and its partner provided remote technical support to community-based workers. These projects will benefit around 2,600 individuals, including host communities.



*Distribution of core relief items to displaced families in Rakhine State. © UNHCR*

### Kachin and North-East

- As of 28 March, some 3,300 individuals remain displaced in Kachin State and 14,300 in Shan State (7,600 in Shan (South) and 6,700 in Shan (North)), due to ongoing armed clashes between the Tatmadaw, EAOs and/or the PDF.
- UNHCR and partners distributed core relief items to 7,500 individuals and provided shelter assistance, including corrugated galvanized iron (CGI) sheets and shelter maintenance reaching over 3,300 individuals in Kachin and Shan (North) states.
- 451 people with specific needs received cash assistance to meet their basic needs in Kachin and Shan (North) states.
- 1,247 people benefited from awareness sessions on different topics including principles of protection and durable solutions, housing, land, and property (HLP) issues, among others in Kachin and Shan (North) states.



*Distribution of core relief items to displaced families in Shan (North) State. © UNHCR*



## Coordination

- As the lead agency for the [Protection Cluster](#), UNHCR has been putting efforts to scale up the Protection coordination and engagement, by bringing together protection partners who have the necessary expertise, resources, access and capacity.
- As a part of the Protection Cluster scale-up plan, [UNHCR established a co-coordination arrangement with the Norwegian Refugee Council \(NRC\)](#). With this dedicated support, the Protection Cluster expects to enhance protection analysis, advocacy, and operational delivery at country level.

## Working in partnership

- UNHCR Myanmar [collaborates closely with relevant stakeholders](#) including UN agencies, international and local NGOs, as well as other humanitarian and development partners. The Agency is an active member of the UN Country Team (UNCT), the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) and the Cooperation Partners Group (CPG). UNHCR leads the Protection Cluster and the combined Shelter, non-food items (NFI), Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) Cluster at the national and sub-national levels. In the three northern townships of Rakhine State, UNHCR coordinates the humanitarian response through the Maungdaw Inter-Agency Group (MIAG) alongside UN Resident Coordinator's Office (RCO). UNHCR also co-chairs, alongside UNDP, the South-East Working Group (SEWG), which has been the main forum for coordination and discussion related to the peace process and major development issues, and chairs state/regional Inter-Agency Coordination in Kayin and Kayah states. In response to the deteriorating situation in the South-East of Myanmar, UNDP and UNHCR have strengthened the humanitarian pillar of the SEWG.
- Read more about the [regional impact of the current crisis in Myanmar here](#).

## Accountability to affected populations (AAP)

- UNHCR continuously takes steps to ensure [accountability to affected populations \(AAP\)](#), adopting [age, gender and diversity \(AGD\)](#) approaches throughout programmes and activities. Despite the evolving operational constraints, UNHCR endeavours to ensure women, girls, men and boys of all ages, abilities and diverse backgrounds/locations participated in their protection and solutions outcomes. A country-wide [Age, Gender and Diversity \(AGD\) Action Plan](#) was rolled out to understand challenges and opportunities, as well as chart measurable outcomes in UNHCR's engagement with affected populations.

## Accessing civil documentation and citizenship

- Collaborating with a community of national and international partners working in various spheres, UNHCR aims to enhance understanding of challenges and opportunities in obtaining civil documentation for all people in Myanmar. Findings shared by partners following their engagement with different communities highlighted the wide-ranging impact of not having civil documentation and the importance of preventing and reducing statelessness especially amongst marginalized populations.
- UNHCR and partners work to assist the conflict-affected communities in exercising their rights and find solutions to displacement through information, counselling, legal assistance. Some [300 individuals participated in awareness raising sessions](#) in Kayin and Shan (South) states and in Tanintharyi and Bago regions to access information on housing, land and property rights and the use of legal and civil documentation such as citizenship cards and birth certificates. To improve access to information, over [600 information, education and communication \(IEC\) materials have been distributed](#) in the South-East.

- UNHCR continued to actively promote the prevention and reduction of statelessness through the dissemination of information. 260 individuals participated in focus group discussions on topics related to access to civil documentation and birth registration in IDP camps, villages and displacement sites.

**UNHCR Myanmar's programme in 2022 is in partnership with:**



**UNHCR IS GRATEFUL FOR THE GENEROUS SUPPORT FROM:**



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