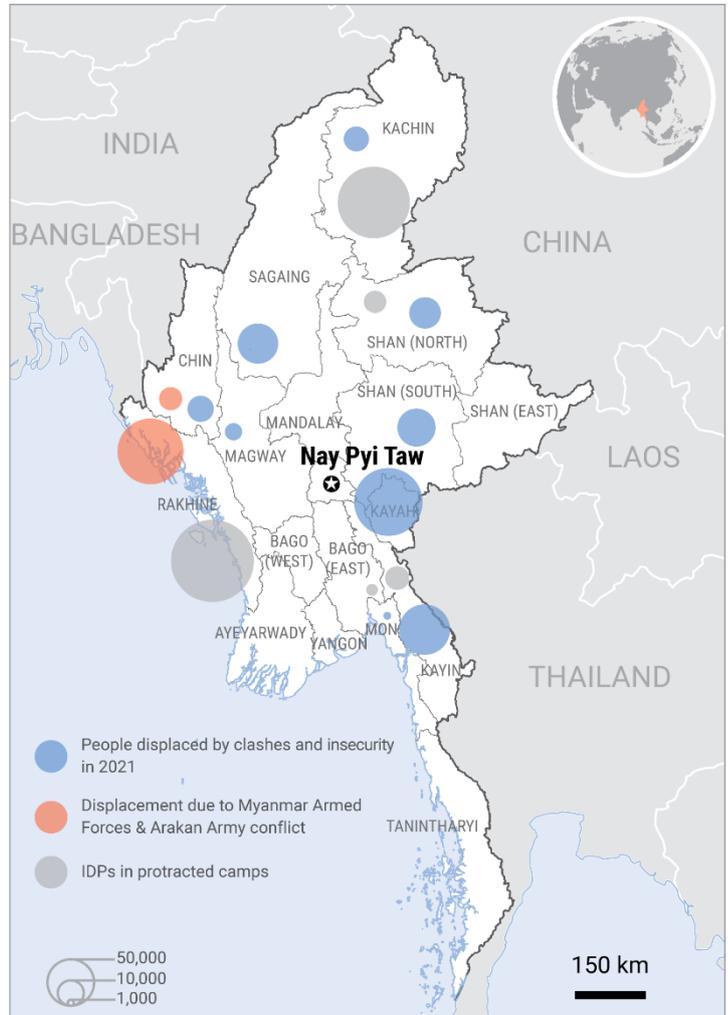


This regular update, covering humanitarian developments from 28 July to 23 August, is produced by OCHA Myanmar in collaboration with the Inter-Cluster Coordination Group, UNHCR and WHO. The next update will be issued towards the end of September 2021.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- At least 125,000 people have been affected by monsoon floods since 21 July across various regions and states, according to local partners.
- Thousands of people have been displaced following armed clashes between the “People’s Defense Forces” (“PDF”) and Myanmar Armed Forces (MAF) in Sagaing Region, according to local partners.
- In Chin State, clashes between the MAF and “PDF” continue in and around Mindat Township. As of 17 August, close to 16,700 people remain displaced in several townships in the area.
- In the south-eastern parts of the country, an estimated 141,200 people remain displaced, mostly in Kayah and Kayin states, due to clashes and insecurity since 1 February.
- Food insecurity is becoming an evolving concern, with reports of food shortage in displacement sites and communities in northern Shan and Rakhine states.
- In Shan State, population movement remains fluid, with new displacements and returns reported on a regular basis. More than 26,300 people have been displaced across the state since the beginning of 2021; about 6,400 of them remain displaced to date.
- Regular humanitarian programmes and COVID-19 related response continue across various parts of the country, despite access challenges and insecurity.
- As of 27 August, 45 per cent of the US\$276.5 million requested under the [Humanitarian Response Plan](#) (HRP), and over 10 per cent of the US\$109 million requested under the [Interim Emergency Response Plan](#) have been funded, according to the FTS.



### KEY FIGURES

## 141K

people remain internally displaced in the south-eastern parts of the country since 1 February 2021.

## 125K

people have been affected by the floods in several regions and states since 21 July.

## 26K

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

## 11K

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

## SITUATION OVERVIEW

**OVER 125,000 PEOPLE AFFECTED BY MONSOON FLOODS:** Monsoon floods have been reported across the country since 21 July in a number of states and regions as torrential rains resulted in river overflows. As of mid-August, an estimated 125,000 people have been affected by flooding, mainly in Kachin, Kayin, Mon, Rakhine and eastern areas of Shan states as well as in Mandalay and Tanintharyi regions, according to local partners. There have also been reports of civilian deaths and injury, as well as damage and destruction to houses and other civilian property.



In Kachin State, flash floods and a landslide on 12 August reportedly destroyed at least 15 shelters in Maga Yang camp in Waingmaw Township, which hosts about 1,600 internally displaced people (IDP); one civilian was reportedly killed during the floods. Similarly, several townships in eastern areas of Shan State experienced flash floods and landslides between 11 and 18 August. A local community, three temporary displacement sites and a relocation site in Muse Township, which hosts around 350 displaced families have been affected. Similar incidents took place in Mogoke Township of Mandalay Region in the second week of August, with floods and landslides reportedly killing four persons, including a child, and washing away a number of houses. In Rakhine State, at least 10 villages in Toungup Township have been flooded due to heavy rains on 6 August, affecting some 1,300 houses, a hospital and paddy fields, according to local partners.

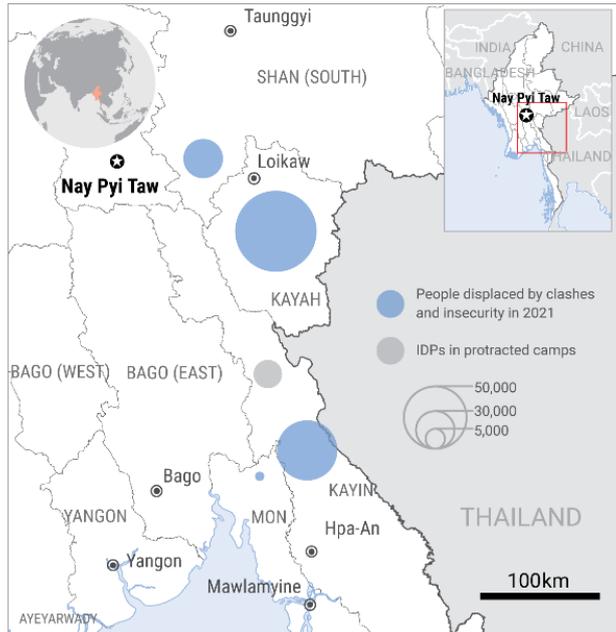
Heavy rains and floods have further aggravated an already extremely challenging situation in the south-eastern parts of the country. In Kayin State, at least five townships have been affected. Another nine townships were affected by floods in Mon State, while in Tanintharyi Region, at least three townships have been affected. Local humanitarian actors, volunteers and communities responded to the needs of affected families, including with organizing temporary shelter for those who had to be evacuated to safer areas. The floods have also damaged crops, and according to initial assessments, at least 2,000 acres of paddy fields in Kyainseikgyi Township in Kayin

State have been impacted, with farmers facing difficulties with seeds and expenses to cover replanting of the paddy. An additional 40,000 cultivated land has been affected across different states and regions, according to partners.

**NEW DISPLACEMENT IN SAGAING REGION:** An unconfirmed number of people, reported to be in thousands, have been displaced across at least six townships in Sagaing Region due to clashes between the MAF and the “PDF” and insecurity in recent weeks, according to various sources. The exact number of people displaced, and their current host locations is still difficult to verify due to access challenges, fluidity and the complex nature of the situation. According to initial information, many IDPs are hiding in nearby forests. There had been limited presence of humanitarian personnel in Sagaing Region prior to this worsening situation in the area. Humanitarian partners are making efforts to scale up coordination to assess needs and provide the necessary support to the newly displaced.

**VOLATILE SITUATION IN THE SOUTH-EAST:** The security situation in south-eastern Myanmar remains volatile, particularly across Kayah and Kayin as well as southern areas of neighbouring Shan State. Sporadic clashes between the MAF and the “Karen Nationalities Defense Force” (“KNDF”), “PDFs” and “Karen National Liberation Army” (“KNLA”) continue to be reported. In Kayah State, hostilities between the MAF and the “KNDF” have increased up since 3 August in Bawlake, Demoso, Hpasawng, Hpruso and Loikaw townships. In the southern areas of Shan State, clashes between the alliance of “KNDF” with local “PDFs” and the combined forces of the MAF with the “Pa-O National Army” have also been reported in Pekon and Pinlaung townships. In Kayin State, armed clashes, including artillery fire, have been reported between the “KNLA” and the alliance of the MAF with the Border Guard Force (BGF) in Hpapun Township since 1 August. Sporadic small-scale clashes between the MAF and the “KNLA” and “PDFs” have also been reported in Mon State, eastern Bago and Tanintharyi regions.

As of 23 August, UNHCR estimates that 141,200 people remained internally displaced across south-eastern Myanmar as a result of armed clashes and insecurity; this includes 75,300 in Kayah, 17,700 in southern Shan State (South- Pekon and Hsihseng townships), 47,100 in Kayin and 1,100 in Mon states. Population movement in affected areas remains fluid; initial reports indicated at least 4,000 people were newly displaced in Kayah State during the reporting period. Despite intermittent fighting, returns have been observed in Kayah State and Shan State (South) in recent weeks as IDPs did not have access to healthcare in the displacement areas and some of them needed to tend to farming in their areas of origin. Many IDPs were previously sheltered by host families and living in difficult, crowded and make-shift conditions with limited resources. Renewed or recurrent displacements from areas of return can be expected should the security situation deteriorate.

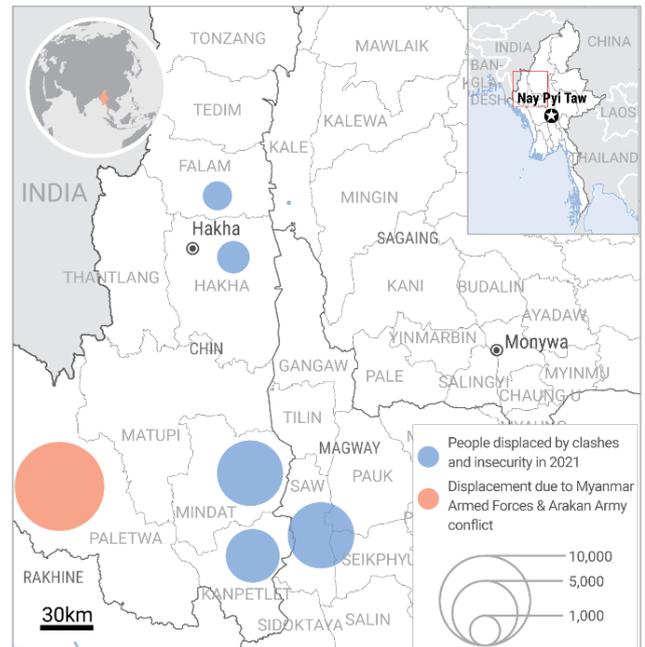


The majority of displaced populations and those otherwise affected by hostilities remain in need food, health care, shelter, WASH and protection services, despite the efforts of operational partners and local communities. UNHCR and partners, for example, have been able to distribute non-food items to around 10,000 individuals in Kayin State and Bago Region since 1 February. Mounting a comprehensive response, however, has been a challenge since the escalation of clashes due to access restrictions, caused by active conflicts, poor road conditions (including as a result of

monsoon floods), COVID-19-related travel restrictions and bureaucratic impediments.

**CONTINUED VIOLENCE IN AND AROUND MINDAT:**

The security situation in Chin State remains volatile with renewed and intense fighting reported between the MAF and “PDF” in Falam, Hakha, Matupi, Mindat and Thantlang townships. In Mindat Township, indiscriminate artillery shelling has been reported, which forced an unconfirmed number of people from Shet and Muiui villages as well as surrounding areas to flee to safer locations. The exact locations of people newly displaced and their humanitarian needs could not be identified due to access and communications challenges. As of 17 August, close to 16,700 people remained displaced in several townships in and around Chin State. Despite the volatile security situation, there have also been reports of small-scale returns among the displaced population, with some 2,170 people having returned to Thantlang during the reporting period. Humanitarian assistance to people who remain displaced and those otherwise affected remains hindered. Food and non-food assistance have been distributed to the IDPs in urban Mindat in recent weeks; however, significant needs still remain, especially in the rural areas of Mindat and other townships in Chin State. 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” (“AA”).



**FOOD SHORTAGE IN SHAN AND RAKHINE:** Food insecurity is becoming an evolving humanitarian concern, with reports of food shortage in displacement sites and communities in northern Shan and Rakhine states. In Kutkai Township in northern Shan, urgent food needs have been reported in five relocation/resettlement sites in Mine Yu Lay Village, which hosts more than 1,000 IDPs since 2013. Similar food needs have been reported in other relocation sites across northern Shan, including Hseni and Kutkai and among local communities in Manton townships, since early August.

In Rakhine State, 900 IDPs in Kan Htaung Gyi displacement site in Myebon Township have been facing food shortage since June. Humanitarian partners reported being unable to deliver food assistance to the site due to access challenges and difficulties withdrawing cash. Food distributions in other displacement sites have also been delayed since July. Shortage of food has also been reported among some 200 IDPs in Bodawmaw Monastery displacement site in Sittwe Township, as well as at the Nyaung Chaung displacement site in Kyauktaw Township. Despite these challenges, 1.2 million vulnerable people across various parts of Myanmar received food, cash and nutrition assistance since the beginning of 2021.

**FLUID POPULATION MOVEMENT IN SHAN STATE:** An estimated 4,000 people have reportedly been newly displaced in four townships in the southern and northern areas of Shan State during the reporting period due to armed clashes between the MAF and Ethnic Armed Organizations (EAOs) and among EAOs. In Kyaukme Township in northern areas of Shan State, close to 2,000 people from eight village tracts had fled from their home due to clashes between the “Restoration Council of Shan State” and the alliance of the “Shan State Progress Party” with the “Ta’ang National Liberation Army”; a further 170 people in Man Yang Village Tract in Muse Township were displaced due to clashes between the MAF and the “Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army”. There have also been displacements in Kyethi and Mongkaing townships in southern areas of Shan State.

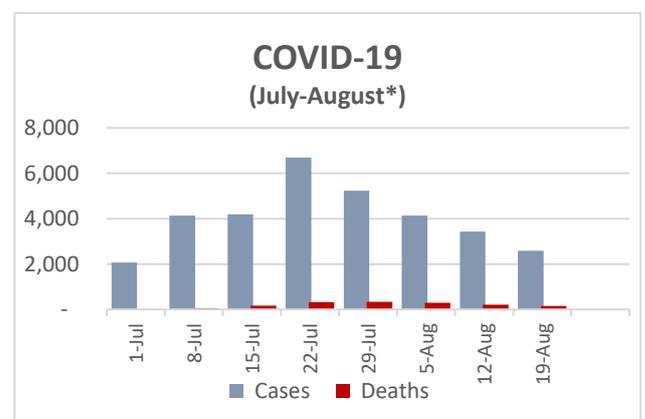
Meanwhile, IDP returns in areas where the security situation improved continue to be reported. For example, in Kyethi Township, close to 4,200 IDPs were able to return to their villages of origin during the reporting period. There were small-scale returns in other townships during the reporting period. Since the beginning of 2021, about 20,000 people have managed to return out of more than 26,300 persons who have been internally displaced across 15 townships in Shan State.

## HUMANITARIAN ACCESS

**CONSTRAINED HUMANITARIAN ACCESS:** Humanitarian access to people in need across all areas continues to be hindered due to armed conflict, insecurity, new restrictions and the pre-existing Travel Authorization (TA) system. In the south-eastern parts of the country, renewed armed clashes between the MAF and EAOs as well as “PDFs” in Kayah and Kayin states are limiting the capacity of partners to attend to people’s needs. The situation has been compounded by the onset of monsoon floods, with road blockages and disruption and damage to supply chains. In Kachin and northern Shan, the COVID-19-related restrictions, numerous checkpoints, road blockages and cumbersome TA processes continue to restrict partners’ ability to scale-up the response. In Rakhine, new bureaucratic restrictions and access limitations linked to the TA process continue to hamper the delivery of humanitarian assistance. Data gathered by partners indicates that more than 50 per cent of activities in Rakhine is affected by access constraints, negatively impacting the delivery of services and humanitarian assistance to around 440,000 people in need. On a positive note, a total of 13 out of 61 displacement sites (of the population displaced by the MAF- “AA” conflict) in Minbya, Mrauk-U and Myebon townships, were delisted from the “non-accessible sites” directory; partners are working to organize missions to follow up on people’s needs.

Access is further constrained across all areas due to ongoing operational and logistics challenges, which include limited cash availability, commodity price hikes, COVID-19 preventive measures, including imposition of “stay-at-home” orders and lockdowns.

**COVID-19 UPDATE:** Case numbers made available on COVID-19 infections, which had been on the rise since June, have started to slowly decline; although, the death rate has not shown a decline compared to July. Between 1 and 26 August, a total of 84,329 cases and 5,516 deaths were reported countrywide. This is a significant decrease in cases reported countrywide compared to the figures made available for the month of July, when a total of 141,908 cases were reported. The number of tests remains extremely limited, suggesting that the reported numbers could be less than actual number of cases. Vaccinations for those in the priority list, including senior citizens aged above 65, health care workers and volunteers, have reportedly resumed in many parts of the country since early August.



\*Best data made available at the time of reporting.

The ongoing “stay-at-home” orders and school closures continue to be effective in a total of 119 townships across the country, while the public holiday period, which was first announced to be effective starting from 17 July, has been extended until 31 August. Overall, access to health facilities remains considerably challenging. Partners are working to support access to care for COVID-19 and other essential services, while sustaining lifesaving humanitarian operations (see below section).

## COVID-19 PREVENTION AND RESPONSE HIGHLIGHTS

- **Protection partners** provided COVID-19 awareness sessions in Rakhine, benefiting 105 workers in 34 locations across the state as well as 110 children and 80 caregivers in Pauktaw and Sittwe townships. In Kachin, 250 children from two childcare institutions received COVID-19 protective gears, while 800 women in three resettlement sites in three townships will receive facemasks, personal protection equipment (PPE), hand gels and medicines. Protection partners also provided similar protective gears to a new COVID-19 center in Kayin State.
- **Health partners** continue providing support to isolation and quarantine centers in displacement sites and distributed PPEs, food and non-food items. The Cluster is also strengthening efforts to ensure better risk communication and community engagement (RCCE). Community facilities, mostly managed by CSOs with support from international and national NGOs, are providing COVID-19 treatment and oxygen therapy to patients. **WASH partners** continue to support access to WASH services and raise awareness about COVID-19 prevention through camp-based volunteers in Rakhine and Chin states. In Kachin, partners are implementing COVID-19 response in 23 IDP camps hosting an estimated 13,250 people. Partners are also installing handwashing stations and distributing soap bars as well as RCCE materials in accessible areas.
- **Education in Emergencies partners** continue to distribute materials for continued learning during COVID-19 related school closures, which also includes information, education and communication (IEC) across a number of locations. In Rakhine and Kachin, partners have included child-friendly posters and face masks in regular education distribution kits. **The Clusters of Shelter/Non-Food Items/Camp Coordination and Camp Management** allocated funding to provide protective gears and install hand washing stations in their interventions across a number of camps and displacement sites in conflict-affected areas. **The Nutrition partners** have included COVID 19 prevention measures when implementing other humanitarian programmes. In Rakhine for example, partners will distribute information materials with over 1,730 posters with COVID-19 prevention messages to over 60 IDP camps/sites in Kyauktaw, Pauktaw and Sittwe townships. **The Food Security Cluster** targeted 75 beneficiaries to produce PPEs in response to COVID-19 prevention under the temporary cash for work activity in Rakhine.

## REGULAR HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE HIGHLIGHTS

### Protection

- Across the country, Child Protection (CP) partners are making efforts to address the increasing needs of children in areas which were not covered by the 2021 HRP. Partners responded to over 700 cases through referrals and case management. Since the beginning of June, a total of 690 adolescents (ages 15 to 19) received psychosocial support.
- In Rakhine and northern Shan, partners reached over 4,230 girls, women, boys and men with mental health and psychosocial support and shared parenting and CP tips. Partners also conducted trainings on child rights and parenting for nearly 50 community volunteers in Mrauk-U and Kyauktaw townships. In northern Shan, partners continue to respond to key CP issues, including child marriage, child labour, unsafe migration and psychosocial stress whenever identified. A total of 290 child-friendly items, such as stationery, toys, were provided to nearly 530 boys and girls displaced to Hsipaw, Kyaukme and Kunlong townships.
- Awareness sessions on Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) were conducted for a total of 46 participants from mine action and cross-border migration groups. Around 55,000 PSEA awareness-raising materials, mostly in Myanmar language, were produced for both staff and for the population in affected communities.

## Health

- Countrywide, the number of reported attacks on health care facilities and services remain unchanged, with 260 attacks on health care services, 18 deaths and 59 injuries, according to the data recorded between 1 February and 23 August by the WHO [Surveillance System for Attacks on Health Care](#). The attacks impacted 153 personnel, 83 patients, 99 facilities and 31 medical vehicles.
- In Rakhine, partners have reached over 665,780 people in Buthidaung, Kyauktaw, Maungdaw, Mrauk-U, Myebon and Sittwe townships with essential health care services since the beginning of 2021, while ensuring pregnant mothers, children under-five and COVID-19 patients can access emergency referral support. In Chin, partners provided limited primary health care services due to armed clashes and insecurity. In Kachin and northern Shan, partners supported essential health care services provided by Ethnic Health Organizations, including activities for nutrition as well as reproductive, maternal newborn and child health, immunization, malaria prevention and treatment, in addition to referrals of high-risk pregnancies and severely ill children.
- In Kachin, partners conducted over 60 mobile clinics visits and provided more than 2,350 primary health care consultations in 17 IDP camps, new displacement sites and hard-to-reach villages within four townships between the beginning of July and mid-August. Awareness sessions on adolescent sexual and reproductive health and rights and gender-based violence continued in some camps, while these activities were suspended in some areas due to the COVID-19 outbreak. In northern Shan, over 280 people in new displacement sites in Namtu and some villages in Hsipaw and Namhkan townships received primary health care services. Partners provided supplementary food and hygiene kits to vulnerable families in IDP camps in Kyaukme Township, while continuing to deliver health care services for children living with HIV/AIDS.

## Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

- Partners are making efforts to respond to the needs of the vulnerable population across Rakhine who have been affected by the recent floods. In Kyaukphyu Township, IDPs received around 380 emergency hygiene kits. In Kachin, partners are working to provide flood assistance to a camp near the Myanmar-China border, where approximately 800 people are sheltering. In addition, partners have prepositioned relief items, including water purification sachets, bleaching powder, soap bars, aqua tabs, tarpaulin sheets, water storage tanks and plastic robes, to distribute to an estimated 30,000 people as needed.
- In Chin State, partners continue to support the IDPs in new displacement sites in Paletwa and Samee townships by improving the access to water and sanitation. In northern Shan, regular activities continued in long-established IDP camps, primarily through camp-based volunteers. Partners have set up hand washing stations and other facilities in self-quarantine centres located in IDP camps for migrant workers, who had to return from China. In addition, there are ongoing efforts to support the installation of latrines and basic water, sanitation and hygiene items for the new displacement sites in the Shan Literature and Culture Association building in Mongngawt Township, where newly displaced people are hosted since June 2021. In Man Yang Village Tract, partners distributed basic hygiene kits to over 170 IDPs.

## Education in Emergencies

- The countrywide school attendance was reportedly low at the reopening of schools at the beginning of the academic year on 1 June. Schools have been closed since mid-July until at least 31 August due to the current surge of COVID 19 cases. Other learning spaces, including Temporary Learning Spaces, community and faith-based schools have also been closed to prevent the spread of COVID 19.
- With the possibility of a second consecutive year in which all learning spaces remain closed, partners are renewing efforts to provide learning material for children to use within communities, including at home as needed. In conflict-affected areas, partners have provided learning material to 23,370 girls and boys during the reporting period.

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

- In Kachin, landslides due to extensive flooding washed away eight newly constructed shelters in a camp located in areas controlled by non-state armed actors affecting eight families, who were evacuated to a church. The camp level management team started to collect local material for the reconstruction/renovation of these shelters.

- In Kachin and northern Shan, Cluster partners are working to identify a way around banking and liquidity problems in order to ensure continuity of operations. Some of the shelter implementation has been cancelled due to difficulties in procuring shelter material.



## Nutrition

- In Rakhine, partners provided nutritional support to the vulnerable people and transported supplies to nutrition facilities in a number of locations in late July. Most of the activities in downtown areas of Buthidaung, Maungdaw and some camps in Sittwe townships have been suspended in August due to the TA constraints and COVID-19 related restrictions, except for the ongoing distributions of nutritional supplies for the malnourished children in Pauktaw Township. In Kayin, partners conducted multiplier trainings for over 40 volunteers to implement nutritional activities in Hlaingbwe Township. Further, the nutrition services, including maternal, infant, young child feeding; integrated management of acute malnutrition; and provisions of micronutrition supplements will be launched in Kayin in the coming weeks.



## Food Security

- In Rakhine, 1,000 individuals received multipurpose cash assistance (MPCA) through cash vouchers in Mrauk-U Township, with each person receiving Myanmar kyats 135,000 (US\$80) through this modality. Partners were able to provide food assistance to the vulnerable population in northern Rakhine and some partners are preparing for more distribution of food and supplementary dietary kits in Buthidaung and Maungdaw townships. Furthermore, partners conducted online training on entrepreneurship and financial management for 50 participants from Maungdaw and Sittwe townships. Online assessments for cash and voucher as well as for the development of digital training programme were conducted in the same townships to support 350 beneficiaries, including people with disabilities. In Kachin, partners started distribution of cash to around 1,200 households in Kachin (Myanmar kyats 80,000 for each households). Partners are also coordinating with camp management committees to identify an additional 580 beneficiaries for cash for food assistance.

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