

MYANMAR | Operational Update

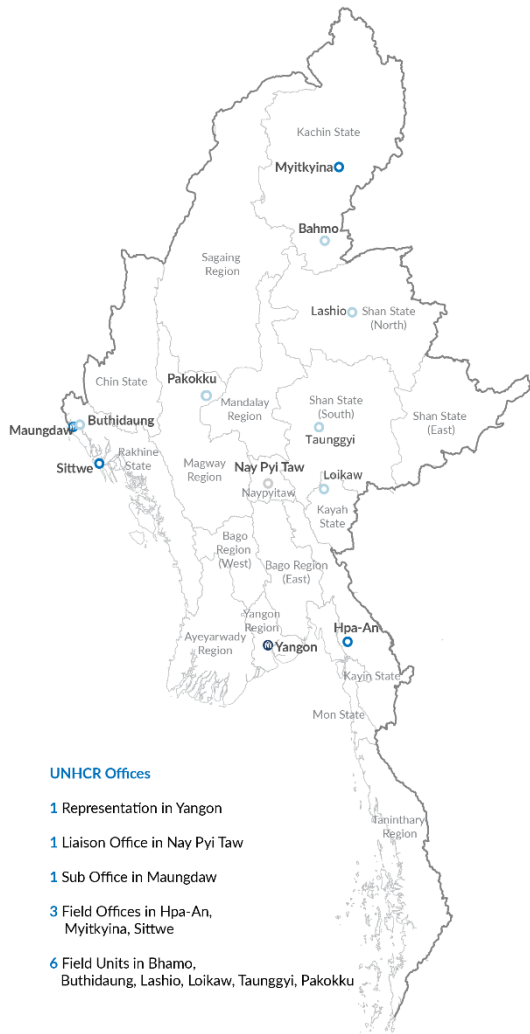
KEY HIGHLIGHTS

103,524 people received core relief items comprising kitchen sets, blankets and sleeping mats, ensuring their basic needs were met.

37,773 people received shelter support for safe and dignified living conditions while in displacement.

3,643 people with specific needs benefited from cash assistance to meet their basic needs.

UNHCR PRESENCE



POPULATION OF CONCERN

600,000

Estimated Rohingya in Rakhine State, of which some **152,000** are living in displacement camps as well as among the host community since 2012.

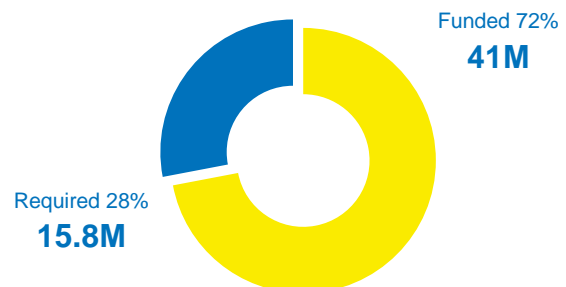
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Internally displaced people (IDP) living in Rakhine, Chin, Kachin, Shan, Kayin and Mon States, and Bago (East), Tanintharyi, Sagaing and Magway Regions (as of 26 December 2022). An estimated 1,175,300 people are displaced due to the resumption and intensification of clashes between the Tatmadaw and ethnic armed organizations (EAOs) and/or People's Defense Forces (PDF) after 1 February 2021. Some 99,588 people remain displaced in Rakhine and Chin States following the Arakan Army/Tatmadaw conflict (as of 19 December 2022).

FUNDING AS OF 29 DECEMBER 2022

USD 56.8M

requested for Myanmar in 2022



South-East

- The security situation continued to deteriorate, with intensified clashes including indiscriminate shelling and airstrikes in Kayah, Kayin, Mon, Shan (South) States and Bago (East) and Tanintharyi Regions. Internally Displaced People (IDP) continue to raise concerns about **lack of sufficient access to food, healthcare, water, and shelter materials while humanitarian access remains an obstacle.**
- UNHCR and partners distributed **core relief items (CRIs) to 55,019 people (13,773 families)** and provided emergency shelter assistance to **16,021 people (3,382 families).**
- In Kayah, Kayin and Shan (South) States, and Bago (East) and Tanintharyi Regions, UNHCR and partners completed **74 Quick Impact Projects (QIPs) targeting 38,500 people** in 57 different villages. Projects ranged from the construction of a primary school, latrines to water supply installations.
- Through Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM), **UNHCR and partners provided protection and ensured equitable access to services to over 31,700 IDP.**
- In Kayah, Kayin, Mon and Shan (South) States and Bago (East) and Tanintharyi Regions, **1,125 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 cash assistance.
- **Over 75,000 personal protective equipment (PPE)** were distributed in Kayin State and Tanintharyi Region, as part of UNHCR's COVID-19 response.



UNHCR and partners distributing shelter materials in Bago (East) Region © UNHCR

Rakhine

- Clashes, indiscriminate shelling, and landmine explosions had been reported in multiple townships, particularly in Rakhine North (State). Following the announcement of an informal ceasefire between the Arakan Army (AA) and Tatmadaw in late November 2022, roadways were reopened to enable movement of civilians and goods between Yangon-Sittwe and within most of Rakhine State (North).
- Humanitarian access to people in need in Buthidaung, Maungdaw, Rathedaung, Mrauk-U, Minbya and Myebon remains challenging and limited to life-saving activities such as food and health after restrictions were imposed on UN agencies and INGOs in mid-September 2022.
- The most basic needs of Rohingya in Rakhine State — freedom of movement, access to basic services and a pathway to citizenship — is still unfulfilled. Moreover, rising criminality in Rakhine North (State) continues to exacerbate insecurity.



Community members participating in the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence campaign in Rakhine State © UNHCR

- UNHCR and partners distributed CRIs comprising blankets, kitchen sets, mosquito nets, buckets, jerry cans to 4,000 IDP (1,001 families) affected by the AA-Tatmadaw conflict in Rakhine State (Central) and 1,499 IDP (394 families) in Rakhine State (North).
- In Rakhine State (North), PPE was distributed to some 1,328 people (358 families) as part of UNHCR's COVID-19 response.
- UNHCR and partners supported 822 PSN in Rakhine State (Central) and 390 PSN in Rakhine State (North).
- Through CCCM, UNHCR and partners continued to ensure the wellbeing of and equitable access to services to over 160,000 IDP living in Rohingya camps and displacement sites following the AA-Tatmadaw conflict in Rakhine State (Central).
- UNHCR and its partners distributed emergency shelter materials that allowed 6,417 people (1,325 families) to build, maintain, or reinforce their temporary shelters for a more dignified and safer living space in Rakhine State (Central). Additionally, some 6,941 people (1,262 families) moved into transitional shelters (longhouses) reconstructed by UNHCR and partners.
- In Rakhine State (Central), 4,213 people benefited from awareness and information campaigns on topics including COVID-19 mitigation and information on access to services.
- An Anti-Trafficking and Smuggling strategy was finalized to outline root causes, level of awareness regarding risks and identify awareness raising needs among the population in Rakhine State (Central). UNHCR is working closely with the Communication with Communities Working Group (CwC-WG) to develop a unified baseline messaging, in efforts to mitigate trafficking and smuggling risks faced by Rohingya and Kaman community, as well as providing information on services and consequences of taking perilous journeys.

North-West

- In the North-West, UNHCR and partners distributed CRIs to 890 conflict and flood-affected people in Pakokku Township, Magway Region. In addition, UNHCR donated over 4,000 PPE - including face masks, gloves, hand sanitizers, thermometers, and safety goggles - to support the health response in Magway Region.
- In Chin State, UNHCR's partners finalized the construction of a water supply system, a water tank, and a culvert line, benefiting some 1,000 people. A bridge was also constructed in Kale, Sagaing Region and will benefit some 2,800 people.

Kachin and North-East

- In Kachin and Shan (North) States, intensified conflict increased protection risks. Movement restrictions continued to be reported due to heightened risk of forced recruitment, robbery, physical assault, and arbitrary arrest particularly in the evenings. The situation is further compounded by limited access to livelihoods, making it difficult for communities to meet their basic needs. Humanitarian access remains a critical challenge across the North-East, particularly in conflict areas.
- Amid ongoing pressure for IDP camp closure, there is ongoing risk of premature IDP returns to villages of origin or relocation to conditions are not conducive, due to safety and security issues, particularly in some areas of Shan State (North). Overall, prospects for return to villages of origin remain slim for displaced



A woman holds a solar lamp provided by UNHCR inside her home in Shan State (North) © UNHCR

people due to continued conflict. Nevertheless, 400 IDP moved out of camps and into areas where they can better integrate.

- UNHCR and partners provided [emergency shelter assistance to 7,214 IDP \(1,505 families\)](#) in Kachin and Shan (North) States and Sagaing Region. UNHCR and partners also distributed [CRIs comprising mosquito nets, tarpaulins, kitchen sets and sleeping mats to 42,116 IDP \(8,664 families\)](#). In addition, [1,180 IDP \(236 families\) received transitional shelter support](#) – offering more robust and durable accommodation for families living in camps or integrating into the community in Kachin and Shan (North) States.
- As part of COVID-19 response, [over 3,700 PPE was distributed in IDP camps](#) in Kachin State.
- Through CCCM, UNHCR and partners continued to provide [protection and ensure equitable access to services to over 95,000 IDP](#).
- UNHCR's [emergency cash assistance supported 1,306 PSN](#) who face specific barriers due to discrimination, their identity, or other factors that prevent them from fully enjoying their rights or accessing services.
- Together with three other UN agencies, UNHCR is working on a [Joint Action Plan for Kachin State Solutions Sites which adopts a transitional solutions' approach to 53 sites hosting some 11,600 people](#). The plans acknowledges that while durable solutions may not be fully attainable in the immediate term, support to communities is critical to lay foundations and improve conditions.
- UNHCR and partners reached [2,462 people through trainings and awareness campaigns](#), targeting humanitarian actors, IDP and host community members. Topics included accountability to affected populations,
- UNHCR and partners completed [24 QIPs](#) ranging from the renovation of a health centre to the construction of bridges, [benefitting some 17,000 people](#) in Kachin and Shan (North) States.

Coordination

- The combined [Shelter/Non-food items \(NFI\)/CCCM Cluster](#) - led by UNHCR - continues to strengthen coordination, engagement, and advocate for funding to cover identified gaps. Significant impact of rising inflation has resulted in significant price increases of humanitarian commodities.
- During October and November, the UNHCR-led [Protection Cluster organized sub-national consultations on the Humanitarian Programming Cycle \(HPC\) process for 2023](#) covering North-West, North-East, Rakhine and South-East regions. Over 240 participants representing local, national, and international partner organizations attended these consultations, providing feedback on humanitarian and protection needs and response plans for 2023.
- [The Maungdaw Inter-Agency Group \(MIAG\)](#) – a coordination and consultative body co-chaired by UNHCR and the UN Resident Coordinator Office (RCO), bringing together UN and NGO partners – [took steps to strengthen its emergence preparedness capacity](#) in Rakhine State (North). A stockpiling analysis dashboard was developed and shared with MIAG partners. Furthermore, the MIAG organized a [citizenship training targeting 50 participants](#).

Working in partnership

- UNHCR Myanmar [collaborates closely with relevant stakeholders](#) including UN agencies, international and local NGOs, as well as 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 Shelter/NFI/CCCM Cluster at the national and sub-national levels. In the three northern townships of Rakhine State, UNHCR co-chairs the MIAG alongside the UN RCO - a [platform focusing on creating conditions conducive for refugee returns and improving the wellbeing of remaining communities](#) through nexus programmes. UNHCR also co-chairs, alongside UNDP, the South-East Working Group (SEWG), which has been the main forum for coordination and discussion related to cohesion 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, UNDP and UNHCR have strengthened and supported 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 Myanmar continuously takes steps to ensure [AAP](#), adopting [age, gender, and diversity \(AGD\)](#) approaches throughout its 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 participate in their protection and solutions outcomes.
- The Protection Cluster conducted series of contextualized [capacity building trainings on AAP targeting 140 international, national, and local members/partners](#) of Protection and Shelter/CCCM/NFI Clusters in Kachin, Shan (North) States and the North-East Region.

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 organized a series of [practical training and workshops targeting 23 civil society partners on the national legal framework and practices to citizenship](#) in Rakhine State (Central). The sessions were intended to enhance partners' understanding on the existing legal framework and procedures in acquiring citizenship as well as to strengthen skills and capacity to implement activities aimed at promoting access to birth registration and nationality. A similar session was conducted with [73 participants including Rohingya and Rakhine youths, partners, and staff](#) to sensitize, engage and enhance the capacity of youths as key drivers in social structures.
- In October, a [joint UNICEF-UNHCR Birth Registration Workshop](#) took place in Sittwe, Rakhine State (Central), bringing together legal partners and key actors. This second workshop aimed at developing a workplan and map out bottlenecks and entry points related to access to birth registration.
- In Kayah and Kayin States, [UNHCR provided legal assistance to 121 people](#) on counselling and civil documentation.

MAIN STORIES



[[STORY](#)] Empowering Displaced Communities in Myanmar's Northeast



[[VIDEO](#)] Meikswe Myanmar, UNHCR Nansen Award 2022 regional winner for Asia and the Pacific assist communities in need

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



UNHCR IS GRATEFUL FOR THE GENEROUS SUPPORT FROM:



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