

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Small-scale returns to Laukkaing as clashes continue in Kokang
- Temporary displacement in northern Shan and Kachin states
- Over 300 IDP households move into new individual housing in Meiktila
- Hundreds displaced by clashes in Rakhine State
- Working with the government to strengthen disaster preparedness

## FIGURES

People who remain displaced in Rakhine State **139,000**

People who remain displaced in Kachin and northern Shan states **100,000**

## FUNDING

**\$190 million** requested for the 2015 Humanitarian Response Plan (US\$)

**16% funded (\$29.5 million)**

**\$53.9 million** Total humanitarian funding received for Myanmar (includes activities outside the Humanitarian Response Plan)



Two children peak out from a hole in a shelter in Ah Nauk Ywe camp, Rakhine State. March 2015. Credit: OCHA

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## First displaced people return to Kokang

### Government providing initial assistance to returnees

The conflict in the Kokang Self-Administered Zone continued but reportedly abated in some areas, including Laukkaing, during the month of April. According to the Relief and Resettlement Department (RRD) in Lashio, up to 5,000 people displaced by the fighting have started returning to Laukkaing. Returnees include approximately 250 people who were staying at the Mansu Monastery or with host families in Lashio since the conflict broke out in February. RRD also reports that more than 3,000 displaced people who were staying at Border Post 125, on the Myanmar side of the border with China, have now either returned to Laukkaing or crossed the border into China. According to Chinese state media, an estimated 60,000 people crossed the border into China from Kokang after the conflict erupted in February. The government estimates that some 60,000 people in Laukkaing Township will require assistance when the security situation allows, including shelter, water and sanitation, food, health, education and in particular livelihood support.

Some of those who returned to Laukkaing are being temporarily accommodated at the Basic Education Middle School (BEMS) compound, before returning to their own housing or other locations if their home was damaged during the conflict. According to the Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS), who were able to travel to Laukkaing from 26 to 28 April, approximately 130 people are currently staying in tents at the school grounds.



Returnees at the BEMS school grounds in Laukkaing, April 2015. Credit: MRCS

The government is providing rice and pulses, as well as tents for some of the returnees. MRCS reported that the needs of returnees include kitchen sets, blankets, mosquito nets, sanitation kits and tarpaulins. MRCS also found that poor sanitation for people staying at the school compound in Laukkaing is a concern. International humanitarian organizations remain on standby to provide further assistance as soon as the security situation allows, and following independent assessment.

## Fighting continues to cause new displacement in Kachin and northern Shan states

Sex and age disaggregated data is available for approximately 60% of people displaced in Kachin, northern Shan and Rakhine

### Rakhine IDP camps:

Women (>18)	13,000
Men (>18)	11,000
Elderly women (>60)	1,500
Elderly men (>60)	1,200
Girls (<18)	24,300
Boys (<18)	26,400

### Kachin IDP camps:

Women (>18)	18,600
Men (>18)	15,700
Elderly women (>60)	2,900
Elderly men (>60)	2,000
Girls (<18)	19,200
Boys (<18)	19,300

### 20,000 flee conflict since beginning of 2015

Since the beginning of the year, over 20,000 people were displaced by conflict in Kachin and northern Shan states. The vast majority of them were from the Kokang Self-Administered Zone, including over 13,000 migrant workers, most of whom travelled back to their places of origin in other parts of the country. Fighting and insecurity also caused displacement in other locations, including in Hpakan, Puta-O and Mansi townships in Kachin State and Hseni, Kutkai, Muse, and Nahmkam townships in northern Shan State. Many of those who were displaced in recent fighting have since been able to return to their villages. However, after more than three years of conflict and continued insecurity, many communities are struggling to cope. At the end of April, more than 3,500 people remained newly displaced at IDP sites within Kachin and northern Shan.



### Over 700 people temporarily displaced in April

New displacements were also reported during April. On 13 April, fighting broke out between the Myanmar Army and an unknown armed group near Hpawng Hseng village in Monekoe Sub-Township in northern Shan State. According to the Kachin Baptist Convention (KBC), over 470 people were displaced. Around 300 people were temporarily staying at Kaung Long village, close to the border with China, before returning to their villages at the end of the month. Another group of approximately 30 households are staying in Pang War village in China. KBC have provided cash assistance to the displaced in both locations and Metta provided food assistance.

Fighting between the Myanmar Army and the Kachin Independence Army was reported in Tanai Township, north of Hpakan from 18 to 22 April. According to local organizations, some 270 people from two villages in the area were temporarily displaced by the fighting to two church compounds, before being able to return to their homes at the end of the month. According to local NGOs, local authorities provided some assistance in terms of cash, rice, and latrines to the displaced.

## Meiktila displaced resettled in new housing

### The government builds 380 new homes for remaining IDPs

More than two years after inter-communal violence broke out in Meiktila, most of the 3,300 people who remained displaced have now been resettled. The Mandalay Regional Government received funds from the Union Government to complete individual homes for 380 families, over 300 of whom moved into their new homes during the month of April.

*At the end of April, more than 3,500 people remained newly displaced at IDP sites within Kachin and northern Shan*

**New resources:**

Snapshot of  
Humanitarian Issues  
(30 April)

3W Kachin State

3W Rakhine State

3W Northern Shan

(Click to access documents)



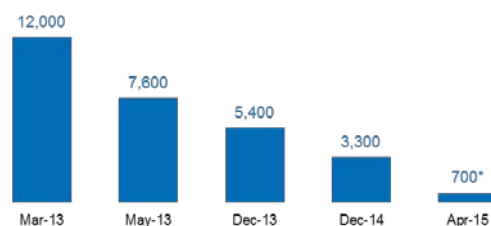
New housing for displaced families in Chan Aye, Meiktila, May 2015. Credit: OCHA

**Some families remain in camps**

All IDP camps in Meiktila have now been closed, except for one location where some 170 households are still staying. Over 70 of them will be able to move into the new housing shortly. Of the remaining approximately 100 households, some are not considered eligible for resettlement support by the government as they are considered to have the means to support themselves. Some of these people are planning to sell their original plots of land and move elsewhere. A small number of people were not originally from the areas affected by the violence. Save the Children International continues to provide water and sanitation and education services to those who remain displaced.

The violence that broke out on 20 March 2013 originally displaced over 12,000 people. While some people were able to return to their homes in the weeks and months following the incidents, around 5,400 people remained displaced in Meiktila town and Yin Daw at the end of 2013. According to the regional authorities, 350 households were resettled to newly built housing in 2014. Some of those displaced built new homes using their own means or found other housing solutions.

IDP Numbers Drop in Meiktila as Returns Continue



Source: Mandalay Regional Government  
Estimate based on 170 households

*In Meiktila, over 300 IDP households moved into new individual homes in April*

## Hundreds displaced by clashes in Rakhine

**Government and civil society organizations provide assistance to affected people**

On 17 and 18 April, clashes between the Myanmar Army and a group reported by the media to be the Arakan Army broke out in Kyauktaw Township. According to the state authorities, the skirmishes affected close to 1,600 people from six villages, displacing over 400 people who took refuge in a school in Sa Par Seik village. Access to and from the affected area was restricted during April, but restrictions have since been lifted. Clashes were also reported in Chin State in Paletwa Township, where over 350 people from an area close to the state border with Rakhine were displaced, according to local authorities.

**UN and INGO mission provides assistance**



The government delivered food assistance to those displaced in Sa Part Seik village, and local civil society organizations provided food supplies and mosquito nets. From 28 to 30 April, an inter-agency mission comprised of UNHCR, the World Food Programme, the Lutheran World Federation and the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), travelled to Kyauktaw to assess needs and deliver humanitarian assistance to displaced people. As of 30 April, around 140 people, primarily women and children, were staying at the school in Sa Par Seik, while others had returned to their places of origin. The team delivered family kits, tarpaulins, blankets and exercise books. No further humanitarian needs were identified and the remaining displaced people are since reported to have returned to their villages.

## Preparing for natural disasters

### Contingency planning workshops map out natural disaster scenarios

Preparedness and contingency planning by the Myanmar Government and the international community is essential to supporting at-risk communities. In 2014, some 60,000 people were affected by floods and other weather-related events during the monsoon season from June to October.

With support from the OCHA, the Relief and Resettlement Department (RRD) organized two workshops on scenario planning for natural disasters in Mandalay and Patheingyi in February. The workshops gathered key local government staff and NGOs operating in these areas to discuss about possible natural disasters scenarios in these regions. The exercise in Mandalay identified areas most likely to be affected by an earthquake, the possible population that would be affected, current capacities to respond and the main operational constraints and challenges. In Patheingyi, the workshop focused on the possible impact of a cyclone affecting nine townships in the region, and identified the resources needed to cope with an emergency of this magnitude.

### Strengthening disaster preparedness in Rakhine State

Based on historical data, Rakhine State is at higher risk of yearly cyclones. In May 2013, some 120,000 people were evacuated due to impending Cyclone Mahasen. To mitigate risks, humanitarian organizations in 2014 developed a contingency plan for a cyclone affecting up to 475,000 people in Sittoung, Pauktaw, Myebon and Kyaukpadaung townships. This plan is currently being updated ahead of the cyclone and monsoon season.



Families take shelter from heavy rains under the awning shelter in Rakhine. May 2013. Credit: OCHA

### Ensuring the right information at the right time for disaster affected communities

In the immediate aftermath of a crisis, before assistance can arrive, communities must cope by themselves. OCHA and BBC Media Action have been working with humanitarian clusters and sectors, Myanmar TV Channel, MRCS, RRD and the Department of Hydrology and Meteorology to identify the most useful information for communities. Messages focus on self-care and ways to reduce risk, for example how to make water safe to drink, what to do if you are bleeding, or what to do if you find a child who has lost his or her family. In the event of a crisis, the messages would be prioritized and tailored based on the context and appropriate communication channel.

*Workshops prepare for earthquake and cyclone scenarios*

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