

HIGHLIGHTS

- Over 1,000 people displaced following renewed clashes in the Hpakan area of Kachin
- IRC provides support for KMSS health clinics in IDP camps in northern Shan
- Government vaccination campaign aims to reach millions of children with support from UN and INGOs
- Fire in Rakhine IDP camp leaves 450 people without shelter



Girl in Kachin boarding school, Feb 2014 Credit: OCHA

Key FIGURES

People displaced in Rakhine State 139,000

People displaced in Kachin and northern Shan states 100,000

People displaced in Meiktila, Mandalay region 3,300

FUNDING

\$190 million requested for the 2015 Response Plan

Sources: UNHCR, OCHA, Mandalay Regional Government, local NGOs

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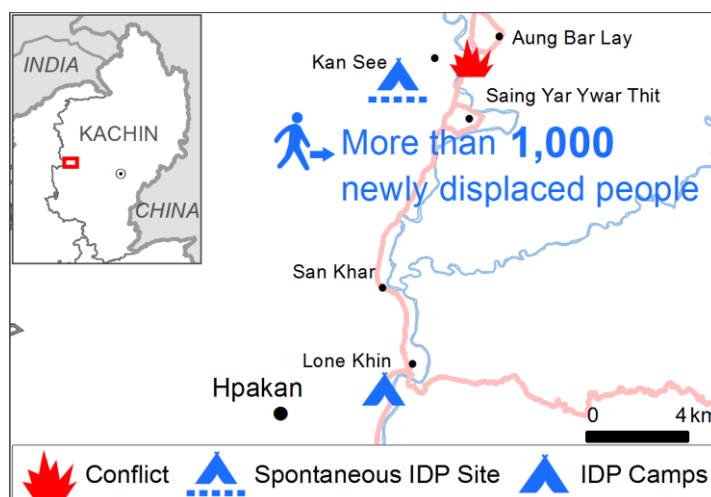
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Over 1,000 displaced by Kachin clashes

On 14 January, fighting broke out in the Hpakan area of Kachin State between the Government of Myanmar Army and the Kachin Independence Army (KIA). According to national NGOs and local authorities, over 1,000 civilians from Aung Bar Lay village and surrounding areas were displaced to Kan See village. Those displaced were staying in religious compounds in Kan See, in close proximity to the conflict area. More than 1,000 residents of Kan See village were also affected by the situation. Those displaced left their homes quickly, during the winter and without any personal items.

The most urgent humanitarian needs of the newly displaced people were met by local authorities in Hpakan, as well as by the Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS) and national NGOs, with support from the UN and international NGOs. This includes food rations for two months, blankets, mats, hygiene, dignity and UNICEF student kits, and other basic items. Food assistance was also provided by local NGOs, supplemented by WFP, to existing IDP camps in Hpakan and Lone Khin for approximately 3,000 people.

Displacement in Hpakan Township, January 2015



Appeals for protection of civilians

A UN inter-agency mission travelled to Hpakan and Lone Khin to assess the situation from 22 to 24 January. Based on their findings and close coordination with national NGOs, the UN and international humanitarian partners have engaged with state and Union level authorities, as well as the KIA, to appeal on all sides to allow safe passage of civilians, and for all parties to ensure that civilians are protected. The Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Myanmar met with the Union Ministers of Border Affairs, Home Affairs, Social Welfare and Defense as well as with the Myanmar Army to ask for protection of civilians, safe passage of people from Kan See, and for humanitarian access to provide adequate assistance. The UN, international and national NGOs offered their assistance in safely relocating people from Kan See to Lone Khin and Hpakan IDP camps.

The UN and partners appealed to all sides to allow safe passage of civilians from Kan See, and for all parties to ensure that civilians are protected

People displaced by fighting in other areas of Kachin

Outbreaks of fighting are also putting civilians at risk and causing displacement in other parts of Kachin State. Local NGOs reported that fighting in the area of N-Ga Hka village, in the northern part of Kachin State, on 15 January displaced close to 100 people to Puta-O town. Local organizations have accommodated them in make-shift shelters in an existing camp, and provided food, blankets and other basic items, water, sanitation and hygiene, as well shelter assistance, with support from UNHCR. Temporary shelters will be built by local NGOs, with the support of the UN's Emergency Response Fund.

Health services for IDPs in northern Shan State

More than 7,000 people remain displaced across northern Shan State since fighting erupted between the Government of Myanmar Army and the Kachin Independence Army, the Ta'ang National Liberation Army, and other armed groups in 2011. In northern Shan, clashes broke out again in the areas of Kutkai, Muse, and Namkham townships, as well as in southern Mansi Township, just across the state border in southern Kachin, during 2014, displacing thousands of civilians.

One of the major needs of displaced people staying in camps in these townships is access to adequate health services. According to an assessment conducted in June 2014 by Save the Children International, health concerns among children under five years-of-age include respiratory tract infections, skin infections and diarrhea, while adults in the camps may suffer from colds, hypertension, abdominal pain, anaemia, diabetes and other health problems. Visits from qualified Ministry of Health workers are infrequent, and drug stocks are insufficient to meet demand – especially during the monsoon and winter seasons – according to the International Rescue Committee (IRC). Most camps lack qualified medical personnel with knowledge of how to safely store and administer medicine.

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Northern Shan and the southern part of Kachin



IRC health programme addressing critical needs

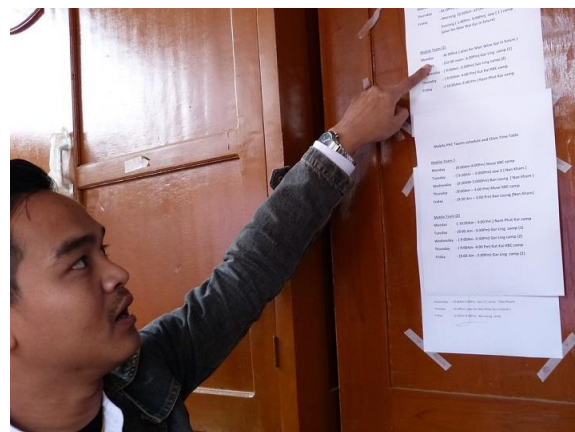
Until December 2014, MSF Holland was running primary healthcare activities through mobile clinics in three camps in Namkham and two camps in Man Wain Gyi. While MSF continues providing medical support to the latter, the organization has handed over its activities in the Namkham camps to IRC. Since late 2014 IRC, with funding from the UN's Emergency Response Fund, has been providing primary and reproductive health services in 15 camps in Muse, Kutkai and Namkham townships, as well as rehabilitation and construction of clinics in several locations.

IRC supports local NGO Karuna Myanmar Social Services (KMSS) to run the clinics in the camps through weekly visits by a team composed of a fully trained doctor, two nurses, and one health promoter, who provide consultations, treatment and medicine. Patients requiring specialist treatment are referred to local hospitals in Namkham or Muse, or for serious cases, Mandalay. Although IRC provides referral funds to some camp management committees, the need to provide additional financial support for emergency referrals has become apparent during the first months of the project. Displaced people, local NGOs and camp management committees say that the financial

IRC supports KMSS to run health clinics in 15 IDP camps in northern Shan State

cost of emergency referrals can be a barrier to patients accessing critical medical treatment on time.

The IRC project also aims to build the capacity of KMSS health staff by providing a series of seven training modules that cover issues ranging from diagnosis and clinical management of key health issues to natal and new born care, as well as on-the-job training to apply the newly learned clinical skills in practice. To complement health clinic services, the project trains KMSS and camp-based volunteers in hygiene promotion to promote safe hygiene practices such as hand washing, as well reproductive health to promote the importance of natal care, exclusive breast-feeding and immunization for children under two.



A trained doctor working for IRC in Jaw 1 camp, Namkham, Kachin, 2015. Credit: OCHA

National vaccination campaign

Ministry of Health aims to vaccinate almost 550,000 children across Rakhine

The first phase of a national Measles and Rubella immunization campaign by the Myanmar Government for children between the ages of nine months to 15 years-of-age ran from 19 January to 27 January in schools in Rakhine. The second phase of the campaign is scheduled from 19 February until 28 February in communities across the state. In the period between the first and second phase, the Rakhine State Health Department will conduct vaccinations in Muslim camps for displaced people and communities.

International and national health organizations in Rakhine State will provide support to SHD personnel with vehicles, medical staff for screenings and management of the process. In total, the Myanmar Ministry of Health is aiming to reach almost 550,000 children across Rakhine, and 17.4 million children throughout the country as part of the vaccination campaign.

Fire destroys the shelters of 450 people in Rakhine camp

Assistance to families who lost everything in the fire was provided by the government, MRCS and UN agencies

On 23 January, a fire broke out in Kyein Ni Pyin camp for displaced people in Pauktaw Township, where some 4,700 people have been living since being displaced during the communal conflict in 2012. The fire destroyed 10 long houses, affecting 106 families - 450 people, of whom 99 are men, 112 women, and 239 boys and girls under 18 years of age. No casualties or injuries occurred as a result of the fire but most people lost all their belongings and monthly food rations. The fire is presumed to have started in one of the kitchens and quickly spread to other structures in this part of the camp.

On 24 January, a joint government and inter-agency mission composed of the State Minister of Security and Border Affairs and the State Minister of Transport and Communication, the UN, international NGOs, and the Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS), visited the camp to assess the damage and determine needs. The assessment found that new shelters, food, blankets, mosquito nets, mats, clothes and other basic items, as well as sanitation items, were needed for the affected families.

Immediate response to address needs

The Rakhine State Government (RSG), international humanitarian organizations and the MRCS responded immediately to address needs. On 25 January, UNHCR provided all 106 affected households with emergency tents and the RSG is currently considering a range of longer term shelter options. In addition to emergency shelter, UNHCR also provided non-food-item kits (which include blankets, mats, mosquito nets and other basic necessities) kits to all families in Kyein Ni Pyin camp as part of the response. The RSG provided food assistance and family kits, and MRCS supplied hygiene and family kits. The need to build emergency latrines is being evaluated.



Emergency tents being set up for families who lost their shelters in Kyein Ni Pyin camp, Jan 2015. Credit: UNHCR

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