

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Over 900 boat people rescued off the coast of Myanmar during May
- New government-led initiative to improve living conditions for IDPs in Rakhine
- Floods in Rakhine State
- Access to education expanded in Rakhine but major gaps remain, especially for adolescents
- More young children in Rakhine will need treatment for severe acute malnutrition
- Four years on, major humanitarian needs remain for 100,000 IDPs in Kachin and northern Shan states
- 37% of 2015 humanitarian funding needs met so far

## FIGURES

People displaced in Rakhine State 130,000

People displaced in Kachin and northern Shan states >100,000

## FUNDING

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

**37 % funded (\$69.5 million)**

**\$120 million** Total humanitarian funding received for Myanmar



An elderly IDP in northern Shan State. Feb 2015. Credit: OCHA

## In this issue

- Over 900 people rescued off Myanmar's coast P. 1
- Improving IDP living conditions in Rakhine P. 2
- Seasonal floods in Rakhine P. 2
- Expanding access to education in Rakhine P. 3
- Providing treatment for severe malnutrition P. 4
- Four years of displacement in Kachin P. 5
- Humanitarian funding P. 6

## Over 900 people rescued off Myanmar's coast

The horrors of smuggling and trafficking of people on boats through the Bay of Bengal and the Andaman Sea caught the world's attention in May following media reports uncovering mass graves in Thailand and later on also in Malaysia. Thousands of people were believed to be stranded at sea in early May, after a crackdown by the authorities in Thailand and other countries in the region on trafficking gangs resulted in several boats being deserted by their crews.

On 22 May, a boat with 208 men and adolescent boys, as well as 20 crew members, was rescued by the Myanmar Navy off the coast of Rakhine State. On 29 May, another boat was rescued off the coast of Ayeyarwady Region, with 733 people, including over 100 women and children, onboard after it had been abandoned by its crew.



A boat with 733 people rescued off the coast of Myanmar on 29 May. Credit: MOI Webportal Myanmar

### Government and humanitarian organizations provide assistance

People rescued from the boats were taken to two reception centres north of Maungdaw. At the sites, they received food, water, clothes, medical attention, psychosocial support and other basic assistance from local authorities, as well as from UN agencies, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and INGOs. Many people said that they had been at sea for more than three months by the time they were rescued.

From 22 to 24 May, a high-level UN delegation, including the UN Secretary General's Special Advisor on Myanmar, visited Rakhine State. They met with the Chief Minister and other representatives from the Rakhine State Government, and visited the recently disembarked people from the first boat.

Eight people on the first boat and 187 survivors on the second boat originated from Rakhine State, according to the Rakhine State Immigration and National Registration Department. As of 30 June, efforts were still being deployed by the Myanmar authorities to facilitate repatriation to Bangladesh, in close coordination with the Bangladeshi authorities, and to facilitate returns to places of origin in Rakhine State.

## Departures from the Bay of Bengal

Those rescued from these two boats were part of a total of over 140,000 people estimated to have left from Bangladesh and Rakhine State through the Bay of Bengal since 2012, according to UNHCR's Regional Maritime Movements Monitoring Unit in Bangkok. People, including a growing number of women and children, are typically transported by smugglers on boats that often pass through Thailand, heading for countries that include Malaysia and Indonesia. They are vulnerable to trafficking and abuse, and are often beaten and held for ransom until a fee is paid by their families for their release, according to interviews with survivors.

On 29 May, the Royal Thai Government organized a Special Meeting on Irregular Migration in the Indian Ocean in Bangkok. The meeting was the first regional meeting aimed at collectively addressing the issue of irregular migration and was attended by high-level representatives from 17 countries in the region, including Myanmar, as well as UNHCR, the UN Office on Drugs and Crime and IOM. The meeting concluded with a series of recommendations, including on search and rescue, safe disembarkation, anti-trafficking, arrival reception and root causes, while stressing the need of collective efforts among related countries.

*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

## Improving living conditions for IDPs in Rakhine

June 8 marked three years since inter-communal violence broke out in Rakhine State, displacing about 140,000 people. Many of the shelters (long-houses) that were constructed hurriedly for internally displaced people (IDPs) when the camps were first established around two years ago were in urgent need of repair and the Government, with support from humanitarian organizations, is engaged in an ongoing project of rehabilitating IDP shelters.

In another very positive development, a government-led initiative has enabled IDPs in some areas to move out of long-houses and build their own shelters in places of origin as a first step towards ending their displacement. About 10,000 IDPs were assisted in the first phase of this ongoing initiative and additional funds are now being secured so that this can be extended to many more IDPs. The aim is to reduce the dependence of these people on humanitarian aid and to contribute to an early recovery programme for the benefit of all communities in these areas. Solutions to the displacement of the more than 100,000 remaining displaced people will have to be found as soon as possible to allow them to resume their lives in dignity.



New IDP shelters being constructed in Rakhine. May 2015. Credit: OCHA

Solutions to the displacement of the more than 100,000 remaining displaced people will have to be found as soon as possible to allow them to resume their lives in dignity.

*Rakhine State authorities have led emergency response and cleanup efforts for the floods*

## Seasonal floods in Rakhine State

### Rakhine State authorities respond to floods across the state

Heavy seasonal rains caused flooding in Rakhine State and other parts of the country at the end of June. At the beginning of July, the Relief and Resettlement Department (RRD) in Nay Pyi Taw reported that close to 14,800 people had been affected by floods throughout the country, with over 13,000 of those affected in Rakhine State. Seven people died due to the floods; six of them in Rakhine. Flash floods and landslides damaged roads, bridges and other infrastructure, as well as homes, agricultural lands, animal livestock and ponds with drinking water in Rakhine, with Ann and Buthidaung townships the most severely affected.

## New OCHA Resources

[Myanmar: Humanitarian Snapshot \(15 June 2015\)](#)

[Myanmar: Internal Displacement in Kachin and northern Shan States \(May 2015\)](#)

[Myanmar: IDP Sites in Kachin and northern Shan States \(May 2015\)](#)

[Myanmar: IDP Sites in Rakhine State \(April 2015\)](#)

[Myanmar: Internal Displacement in Rakhine State \(April 2015\)](#)

(Click to access documents)

*34,000 primary school age children benefit from improved education opportunities*

The Rakhine State Government (RSG) reported that about 2,500 people were severely affected by the floods; their houses either completely destroyed or partially damaged by floods or strong winds.

Rakhine State authorities have led emergency response and cleanup efforts, providing food, medical attention and other basic necessities to families who had to temporarily relocate to evacuation centres, monasteries or other safe locations. The Union level Government provided financial assistance to support the repair of damaged infrastructure and to help families whose houses were destroyed rebuild. The Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS) and some international organizations also provided some assistance, including blankets, mats and family kits, as well as speed boats to support the response undertaken by the local authorities.



RSG distributing MRCS family kits to flood affected families in Buthidaung Township on 1 July 2015. Credit: OCHA

A joint UN and Rakhine State Government mission visited six flood-affected townships in Rakhine State from 29 to 1 July to assess the impact. In all areas, flood waters had receded and people in evacuation centres had returned home. In Ann Township, where around 200 homes were destroyed, flood waters have receded but hundreds of people remain displaced with relatives. The government has provided financial assistance for these people to rebuild their homes.

## Expanding access to education in Rakhine

### Primary education opportunities for over 30,000 children

The new school year started on 1 June 2015 across the country, including in schools and Temporary Learning Spaces for children in camps, host communities, and surrounding communities in Rakhine State. Teaching and learning kits for the new school year are being distributed to all children attending learning spaces in the camps. UNICEF also distributes learning materials to primary schools in government and monastic schools in Sittwe, Mrauk-U, Ann, Man Aung, Rathedaung, Myebon, Maungdaw and Buthidaung townships.

UNICEF, Save the Children International, Plan International, the Lutheran World Federation and other partners have expanded support to the Rakhine State Government by providing primary and non-formal education programmes for post-primary school age children in IDP camps, host and surrounding communities for the 2015-16 school year. This has led to an increase in access to education benefitting about 34,000 primary school age children (5 to 11 years). Additionally, some 7,900 post-primary school-age children (12 to 17 years) are accessing non-formal education or life-skills activities. This was achieved through increasing the number of temporary learning facilities in camps and host communities, expanding non-formal education and life-skills opportunities, recruiting and training volunteer teachers, distributing teaching learning materials, and establishing school committees to promote parental participation in education. Organizations have also strengthened linkages with the formal education system.

### Majority of adolescents still lack access to education opportunities

In spite of these achievements, major gaps in access to education for both displaced and non-displaced children remain, especially at the post-primary level. Even before inter-communal violence broke out in 2012 in Rakhine, net enrolment rate for primary school children was about 71 per cent, and even lower for secondary at 32 per cent. Primary school-aged children in camps and communities in remote and isolated areas remain with

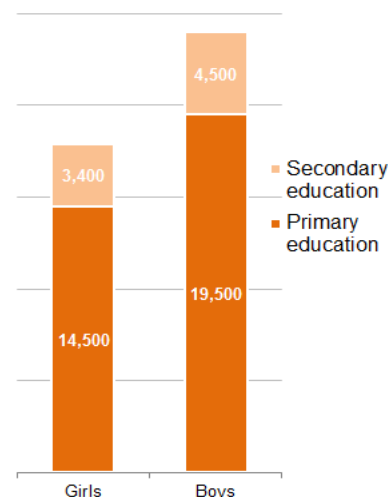


*The vast majority of adolescents in Rakhine State continue to lack access to education opportunities*

very limited access to education. Humanitarian organizations are working to reduce gaps between education provided for displaced children and the formal education system, and are supporting the involvement of the State Education Department in Temporary Learning Spaces. In February 2015, the State Education Department organized the Grade 5 exam in IDP camps and committed to providing textbooks to children attending Grade 1 to 5 in the Temporary Learning Spaces.

According to UNICEF, the vast majority of adolescents affected by ongoing inter-communal tensions, including IDPs, who are in need of assistance in Rakhine State continue to lack access to quality formal or non-formal education opportunities as a result of very limited availability of formal secondary institutions and qualified teachers, as well as due to movement restrictions. Other factors also inhibit adolescents from accessing education, such as their and their families' desire to be available for livelihood opportunities and domestic work. Although aid organizations are increasing non-formal education opportunities for this age group, coverage continues to be very limited. Since June 2015, access to formal middle school education in Sittwe camps has improved, as the State Education Department opened satellite middle schools attached to a formal middle school, where over 1,000 adolescents have been enrolled.

**Children accessing emergency education and informal learning opportunities in Rakhine State**



Ensuring that all children in Rakhine, including IDP children, have access to quality formal and non-formal education opportunities remains a major priority. Education can help keep children secure and protected and helps children and communities gain a sense of stability, structure and routine. Education opportunities are particularly important for adolescents, as this is one of the age groups that is most vulnerable to protection risks.

## More support needed to address severe acute malnutrition among children in Rakhine

### WHO international standards for malnutrition implemented in Myanmar

Acute malnutrition in children under five years old continues to be a serious concern among vulnerable communities in Rakhine State. From January to June 2015, over 5,300 children with Severe Acute Malnutrition were admitted to therapeutic care centres across Rakhine, according to programme data from humanitarian organizations working in the state. In the northern part of Rakhine alone, the INGO Action Contre la Faim estimates that in 2015 close to 11,000 acutely malnourished children and 3,000 malnourished pregnant and lactating women will be covered by their programme. Nutrition surveys conducted



A six-month old girl receives therapeutic food at an ACF treatment centre in Rakhine. Credit: OCHA

in late 2013 and in 2014 have indicated that acute and chronic malnutrition affects boys and girls equally.

### 14,000 children in need of treatment for severe acute malnutrition

In 2015, Myanmar is adopting the World Health Organization's international [child growth standards in the management of acute malnutrition](#). Studies by organizations providing

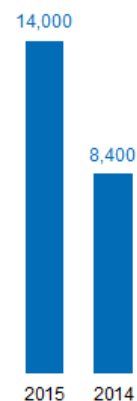
*Almost twice as many children will need treatment for severe acute malnutrition in 2015 as in 2014*

support to malnourished children and their families estimate that this shift to the new standards will substantially increase the number of children in Rakhine State recognized as suffering from Severe Acute Malnutrition. According to UNICEF, an estimated 14,000 children between six months and five years of age will need life-saving therapeutic food in 2015 when the WHO standards are implemented. This is an increase from some 8,400 in 2014. This will have an impact on programme resources, including the need for additional therapeutic supplies to meet this increase. Overall, nutrition sector partners aim to assist over 75,000 children, pregnant women and new mothers in Rakhine in 2015.

### Funding needed for nutritional support and prevention for malnourished children

#### Children in need of treatment for SAM in Rakhine State

The increase in the number of children who will be identified as suffering from Severe Acute Malnutrition under the new WHO growth standards means that organizations implementing management of acute malnutrition activities face a shortfall of nutrition supplies in 2015. According to UNICEF, a total of at least US\$ 940,000 is needed to address these additional needs; an increase of 87 per cent from 2014 funding requirements.



In addition, nutrition prevention and community-based programmes are required, along with food security, livelihoods and sanitation support, in order to prevent persistent levels of acute malnutrition in Rakhine. Support for other key sectors, including water, sanitation and hygiene, as well as food security and livelihoods, is also critical in addressing underlying causes of acute malnutrition.

*Prevention programmes are needed to address persistent high rates of acute malnutrition in Rakhine*

## Four years on, major humanitarian needs remain in Kachin and northern Shan

### Over 100,000 people remain displaced across Kachin and northern Shan

June 9 marked four years since the conflict erupted again between the Government of Myanmar Army and the Kachin Independence Army in Kachin and northern Shan states. Four years on, over 100,000 people remain displaced across both states; approximately half of them are in the areas beyond the government's control. National NGOs marked the occasion with an event in Yangon that focused on the plight of families after four years of displacement, and the need for continued funding of the humanitarian response, which remains underfunded.

Outbreaks of fighting continue in Kachin and northern Shan states. Incidents such as artillery shells falling close to Alen Bum boarding school, where close to 1,000 students live, on the outskirts of Laiza on 25 June show that civilians, including children, remain highly vulnerable.

After years of wear and tear and as the rainy season gets underway again, temporary shelters for IDPs in Kachin are in need of repairs or maintenance to provide protection from the elements. Some shelters are beyond their initial lifespan and need repair or maintenance to avoid costly reconstruction. Maintenance and repairs of water and sanitation infrastructure is also needed to maintain adequate functionality. After four years, displaced women and men also need access to livelihood opportunities to generate an income to support their families.



An IDP woman in her shelter in Myitkyina, Kachin. Feb 2015. Credit: OCHA

*Many temporary shelters in Kachin are in urgent need of repair to withstand monsoon rains and winds*

## Humanitarian access remains restricted in Kachin

After a five month gap, international humanitarian organizations delivered assistance to over 12,000 displaced people in non-government areas during the months of March and April. The UN and INGOs are waiting for authorization to proceed with the next series of cross-line convoys. Most international organizations have not had access to Laiza since September 2014. Some 20,000 of the IDPs in non-government areas are staying in camps in or around Laiza.

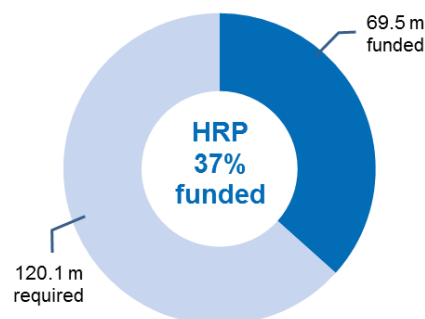
Local NGOs continue to provide essential relief and services to displaced people in both government and non-government areas, and remain at the forefront of the response. Restrictions on access for international organizations however affects the quantity and quality of assistance provided for IDPs in areas beyond government control, further exhausting their coping mechanisms after four years of displacement.

*With only 37 per cent of the required funding so far received overall in 2015, many humanitarian needs are not being met*

## Humanitarian Appeal 37 per cent funded

### More funding needed to meet the needs of most vulnerable in 2015

The 2015 Myanmar Humanitarian Response Plan requests US\$ 190 million to provide humanitarian assistance to over 500,000 people in Rakhine, Kachin and northern Shan states. As of 30 June 2015, \$69.5 million – or 30 per cent - had been received. An additional \$50.5 million has been provided by donors to projects which fall outside of the appeal. Funding goes toward life-saving food, protection services, water and sanitation activities, health, as well as shelter, education and nutrition for people with humanitarian needs.



The ten largest donors to humanitarian action in Myanmar this year so far are Japan, the United States, the European Community Humanitarian Office (ECHO), the United Kingdom, Germany, Sweden, Switzerland, Canada, Australia and Finland.

### Shelter response in Kachin and livelihoods in Rakhine underfunded

Funding levels in some sectors are particularly low. In the case of Shelter, the most significant funding gap is in Kachin and northern Shan states. The Livelihoods Support component of the Food Security sector is critically underfunded, in particular in Rakhine State. The Health Sector is also severely underfunded, as is the Protection Sector (particularly for Child Protection activities and to address sexual and gender based violence).

The Food Security Sector is also facing a serious funding shortfall. The World Food Programme has warned of a break in the food pipeline in October if further resources are not received soon.

### UN Emergency Response Fund provides support

During 2015, the UN Emergency Response Fund (ERF) has received \$1.6 million from Australia, and the United Kingdom, and has received a further pledge of \$0.6 million from Sweden. The ERF allocated \$1.4 million to four humanitarian projects supporting emergency education, health, water and sanitation, food and shelter in Rakhine, Kachin and northern Shan states.

For further information, please contact:

Eva Modvig  
Reports Officer  
Email: [modvig@un.org](mailto:modvig@un.org)  
Tel. (+95) 9 420 275 877

Pierre Peron  
Public Information Officer  
Email: [peronp@un.org](mailto:peronp@un.org)  
Tel. (+95) 9 250 198 997

OCHA Humanitarian Bulletins are available at [www.reliefweb.int](http://www.reliefweb.int)

 **United Nations OCHA Facebook**  
[www.facebook.com/OCHAMyanmar](http://www.facebook.com/OCHAMyanmar)

**New OCHA Myanmar website:**  
[www.unocha.org/myanmar](http://www.unocha.org/myanmar)