

Myanmar Humanitarian Fund



No formal education class (NFE) at one of the Temporary Learning Spaces (TLS) funded by the Myanmar Humanitarian Fund in Koe Saung village in Sittwe Township, Rakhine State. Credit: NRB / OCHA Myanmar

June 2017

Key figures

Since 2007



US\$31.4
million mobilized



82
partner projects funded



927,000
people targeted



7 donors

Australia, Canada, Denmark,
Luxemburg, Sweden, Switzerland
and the United Kingdom

Comparative advantages

- Supportive of national partners
- Flexible and efficient
- Low transaction costs
- Transparent
- Locally managed
- Multiplies the impact of individual donor contributions
- Strategically linked to HRP
- Consistent with the outcomes of the World Humanitarian Summit
- Supports coordinated and principled response

WHAT IS THE MYANMAR HUMANITARIAN FUND?

The Myanmar Humanitarian Fund (MHF) is an OCHA-managed country-based pooled fund led by the Humanitarian Coordinator to provide emergency response to urgent needs of people affected by natural disasters or conflict. Since 2007, the MHF has mobilized US\$31.4 million for 82 projects, providing assistance to more than 927,000 affected people. This includes a 1st Reserve Allocation in 2017 of US\$2.65 million for six different projects to respond to the nutrition situation in northern Rakhine, new displacements in Kachin and Shan States, and to cover critical gaps on the education sector in central Rakhine State. The Fund, which is continuing to grow in size, received US\$8.4 million in 2016 from five donors: Australia, Denmark, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom. As of 01 June 2017, the MHF has already received US\$7.5 million in pledges (US\$4.7 million paid contributions) for the current year, including contributions from Luxemburg and Canada, new donors to the Fund. A 2nd Reserve Allocation of US\$600,000 million has been launched on 23 June to cover humanitarian needs due to the impact of the cyclone Mora and subsequent rains in Rakhine State. This MHF Allocation is done in complementarity to a request of US\$2.2 million to the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF).

WHAT DOES THE FUND DO?

When a crisis hits, OCHA supports the Humanitarian Coordinator to rapidly distribute funds. MHF projects can respond to new emergencies or fill gaps in humanitarian response. The Fund aims to strategically allocate the limited available resources to reach a wider number of beneficiaries, develop the capacity of local organizations and enhance the resilience of targeted communities. All humanitarian sectors are eligible. Projects must be aligned with sector priorities outlined in the Humanitarian Response Plan and the specific allocation strategy paper. The Fund complements allocations at the global level through the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF).

WHY DOES THE FUND MAKE GOOD SENSE FOR DONORS AND AFFECTED PEOPLE?

The MHF provides an efficient and direct way for donors to strengthen partnerships with national and international NGOs, community and faith-based organizations, and UN agencies. By pooling funds at the country level, it is possible to coordinate modest funding allocations, multiplying their impact on the priority sectors identified under the Myanmar Humanitarian Response Plan. The allocation process for MHF funds is streamlined and flexible, allowing donor funds to be rapidly mobilized to assist affected people. By supporting the MHF, donors are guaranteed strong accountability for and monitoring of their investment. With several allocations per year, MHF donors receive high visibility for their contribution at the national level with support from OCHA's communications team and recipient partners.

MEETING COMMITMENTS FROM THE WORLD HUMANITARIAN SUMMIT

Supporting the MHF is a practical way for donors to realize the commitments made at the World Humanitarian Summit. In particular, giving to the MHF allows donors to deliver on their pledge in Istanbul to localize humanitarian response and funding. The MHF targets 50 per cent of its funds for allocation to local NGOs. This exceeds the 25 per cent targets set as part of 'The Grand Bargain' in Istanbul. The argument for supporting local humanitarian action in Myanmar is a strong one. In Kachin, Shan and Rakhine States, local organizations are already central to providing vital humanitarian relief to those in need. In 2016, the in-country indicator was nearly reached: 45% of MHF grants were allocated to local NGOs. When a natural disaster strikes or conflict breaks out in Myanmar, it is always affected people, local authorities and NGOs who are the first to respond. Providing donor funds to eligible local partners through the MHF is a practical way for the international community to enhance their invaluable role.

Leaving no one behind

- Closes funding gaps for needs in fast-onset emergencies and those outlined in the Humanitarian Response Plan
- Is impartial and allocates funds to meet the needs of people affected by conflict or disaster



Investing smarter

- Pools un-earmarked funds multiplying the impact of donor contributions
- Mobilizes humanitarian response quickly and efficiently on behalf of people in need

Localized response

- Localizes decision-making on funding allocations
- Prioritizes national NGOs to receive support (50% funding target)

WHAT KIND OF PROJECTS DOES THE MHF SUPPORT?

MHF projects respond to humanitarian needs across all humanitarian sectors: Camp Coordination and Camp Management, Education, Food Security, Health, Nutrition, Protection, Shelter and Non-Food Items (NFI), and WASH. These projects have increased access to safe and clean water, initiated emergency sanitation in displacement camps, provided emergency health response and basic health assistance, funded distribution of medicine, ensured the continuation of emergency educational programmes, supported anti-trafficking activities, provided mine risk education, delivered food supplies, increased food production and improved livelihood opportunities. The MHF recognizes the centrality of protection and uses the IASC Gender Marker to select projects for funding. The Fund also supports cash-based programming as a preferred method of distributing assistance to people in need, when possible.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE MHF FUNDING?

The MHF will only fund active NGOs which have completed the due diligence process through the online Grant Management System (GMS), have undergone the capacity assessment process and become eligible to receive the Fund. Active participation in the humanitarian coordination system at sub-national level, including the sectoral coordination, will be also considered during the evaluation of the project proposal for funding. Only national and international NGOs that are eligible partners can apply for direct funding through the MHF, as well as UN Agencies.

HOW ARE FUNDS DISTRIBUTED?

Once a new emergency hit the country or critical gaps in the core humanitarian response need to be addressed, the MHF will undertake a consultation and analysis process to elaborate an allocation strategy paper for a call for proposals, depending on availability of funds. The call for proposals is developed in collaboration with partners, clusters/sectors, the MHF Advisory Board and the Humanitarian Coordinator, in close consultation with the Humanitarian Country Team. Allocations are limited in time, scale and scope to the prioritized activities and sectors indicated in the allocation strategy paper.

For further information, please contact the OCHA Humanitarian Financing Unit by email at MHF-Myanmar@un.org or visit: <http://www.unocha.org/myanmar/humanitarian-financing/myanmar-humanitarian-fund-mhf>