

Myanmar Humanitarian Fund



MHF



U Labang Seng Nan and his family were displaced after clashes broke out near their village in Kachin State. National partners were able to provide them with hygiene kits and other non-food items with MHF support.

October 2018

Key figures

Since 2007



US\$45.4
million mobilized



122
projects funded



1.8 million
people targeted



10 donors

Australia, Canada, Germany, Luxembourg, Malta, New Zealand, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States of America

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. Since 2007, the MHF has mobilized \$45.4 million, providing life-saving assistance to 1.8 million people through 122 projects. The MHF is a vital enabler of humanitarian response both in critical moments when funding was scarce and for critical sectors that are often underfunded. Throughout 2018, the MHF has been activated in two occasions. Firstly, to address immediate needs in Rakhine, Kachin and Shan, through one standard allocation of US\$6.8 million; and secondly, to support the response to people affected by floods in Bago, Kayin, Mon and Tanintharyi, through one reserve allocation of US\$1 million, which was done within an Integrated Allocation Strategy with the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF). Both MHF allocations, a total of US\$7.8 million, are supporting 21 projects targeting 455,000 persons, of which 52% are women and girls, and 44%, children and adolescents under 18. Allocations targeted both for internally displaced persons and the host communities, across targeted areas in clear linkage with the strategic objectives defined by the Humanitarian Response Plan, updated assessments and existing coordination mechanisms. As of 1 October 2018, the MHF has received \$14.4 million in contributions from ten donors, including a pledged amount of \$1.2 million. Additional contributions could be expected in the coming months.

WHAT ARE THE OBJECTIVES OF THE FUND?

The MHF is designed both to support a rapid and effective response to new emergencies and to fill critical gaps in ongoing humanitarian operations. The Fund aims to strategically allocate the available resources to reach a wide number of beneficiaries, develop the capacity of local organizations and enhance the resilience of targeted communities. All humanitarian sectors are eligible to receive MHF support. Projects must be aligned with sector priorities outlined in the HRP and the allocation strategy paper. The Fund complements allocations at the global level through the CERF, when possible.

WHY IS THE FUND AN EFFECTIVE TOOL TO ADDRESS NEEDS?

Donor contributions to the MHF are un-earmarked. The Humanitarian Coordinator (HC) works with relevant partners to develop a strategy for each Fund allocation. Funding decisions for individual projects are then made through a consultative process, based on identified humanitarian needs and priorities at the country level. Inclusiveness, flexibility, timeliness, efficiency, partnership, transparency and value for money are the principles that underpin the use of the MHF.

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 national 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 2018, 43 per cent of MHF grants has been directly or indirectly allocated to national NGOs. When a natural disaster strikes or conflict breaks out in Myanmar, it is always the affected communities, the local authorities and the 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: education, food security, health, nutrition, protection, shelter / non-food items / camp coordination and camp management, and water, sanitation and hygiene. 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, implements an age, gender and diversity approach 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: www.unocha.org/myanmar/about-mhf

