

*This report is produced by OCHA on behalf of the Humanitarian Coordinator. It covers the period from 28 June to 5 July. The next report will be issued on 12 July.*

## **I. HIGHLIGHTS/KEY PRIORITIES**

- The Government indicates that some 55,000 people are currently displaced. Humanitarian partners estimate that some 100,000 persons have been affected.
- A high-level delegation, led by the Union Ministers of Defense, of Border Affairs, and of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, with the participation of representatives from UN agencies, NGOs and donors visited Rakhine state between 27 and 30 June.
- The Government highlighted that urgent needs include shelter, food, WASH and NFIs, with priority areas being Sittwe, Rathedaung and Maungdaw. Support in all other sectors is also required. The Inter-Agency assessment is ongoing. Results will provide a clearer indication of the needs. Preliminary observations confirm Government prioritization.

## **II. Situation Overview**

Across Rakhine State, reports of incidents over the last couple of weeks have substantially decreased. However, inter-communal tensions remain very high in several areas. Some organizations from both communities circulated a number of statements against each other, and against UN and NGOs, fueling tensions and hampering humanitarian assistance which is intended to reach all the victims of the violence, and is carried out at the request of and in collaboration with the Union and State authorities.

A high level delegation, led by the Union Ministers of Defense, of Border Affairs, and of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, with the participation of representatives from UN agencies, NGOs and donors visited Rakhine state between 27 and 30 June, to discuss with the State Government the needs of those affected by the instability and how best the international community can support the Government-led humanitarian response. The delegation visited a number of camps and villages in Sittwe and Maungdaw. During meetings with the State Government, humanitarian partners reiterated their readiness to support government-led humanitarian efforts, as well as longer term programming, and the willingness to re-start activities that have been impacted by the recent violence. Partners also stressed the need for a conducive environment for all humanitarian actors to provide assistance, highlighting that assistance will be provided to all people in need under the humanitarian principles of neutrality and impartiality.

The Government has deployed additional security personnel to address security concerns expressed by communities. The state of emergency and curfew from 6pm to 6 am continue in six townships of the State. Authorities prevented escalation of violence in Myebon Township on 29 June, when rumors started circulating on the poisoning of the lake used by one community for fishing and water supply. Markets and trade has resumed in some parts of Sittwe and Maungdaw. However, substantial inter-community trade is yet to be observed.

Arrests continue to take place. On 1 July, the Government reported that a total of 49 suspects have been arrested in connection with the killing of 10 Muslims people in Taungup or the raid on the Sittwe Police Station on 3 June, highlighting that further actions will be taken against the arrested suspects, in accordance with laws, to ensure community peace and prevalence of law and order.

At the moment, some 10 UN and INGO staff are kept in custody by the authorities of Rakhine State for questioning. The Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator, on behalf of the humanitarian community, has reported to Government the situation in several occasions and has requested the Government for information about each detained staff member, making reference to the 1946 Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the UN. A formal reply is being awaited. Out of concern for the privacy of its staff, the UN has decided not to release any personal or professional information about any detained personnel.

Government estimates indicates a total of 55,000 people displaced, who are accommodated in 81 camps in 4 townships, as of 3 July. Humanitarian partners estimated that over 100,000 people have been affected by the conflict. Affected population figures continue to fluctuate, with several locations where people have sought temporary refuge now empty, and reports of movement of IDPs between different camps and villages. The situation in the six affected townships varies, with the Government reporting the most acute

humanitarian needs being in Sittwe, where the largest displaced population is reported (52,000 people) and in Maungdaw (2,600 IDPs). IDPs are hosted in – often overcrowded - public buildings (schools, monasteries, mosques, etc), with host families and – in the outskirts of Sittwe - in tents pitched in between houses of pre-existing villages. The Government is setting up several IDPs camps for each of the communities to accommodate the displaced until a longer-term solution is found. The Government indicated that it will take longer to resolve the issue of displacement in Sittwe Township than in other parts of the State when people will return to their homes. In Sittwe, the Government is looking at a comprehensive township planning exercise in the medium term.

### III. Humanitarian Needs and Response

The Government continues to provide assistance to IDPs including food, shelter, NFIs and medical supplies. Agencies are distributing existing stocks and dispatching additional relief items to support the Government-led response.

Government, UN, NGOs and the Red Cross Family are collaborating in the inter-agency multi-sectorial rapid assessment which result will inform response planning. As of 5 July, 109 locations in three townships (93 in Sittwe, 9 in Rathedaung, 7 in Maungdaw) have been assessed and data is being compiled for analysis. Discussions with authorities to assess IDPs locations in Pauktaw and in Maungdaw, where some community leaders expressed reluctance for the international community to assess needs and provide assistance to IDPs, is ongoing.



#### Education

- Schools continue to remain closed in several locations of Sittwe, Maungdaw, Buthidaung, Rahtedaung as teachers and students have fled to safe locations following the violence, and as nine schools are being used as temporary camps for IDPs.



#### Food

- As of 30 June, WFP team distributed a total of 884 metric tons of mixed food commodities to some 103,000 affected people in five townships (Sittwe, Buthidaung, Rathedaung, Maungdaw and Pauktaw). An additional 640 MT of mixed commodities (rice, pulses, salt, oil and Wheat Soy Blend (WSB)) are being dispatched to Sittwe for further distribution while additional 800 MT of rice are currently being loaded in Yangon for shipping to Sittwe.

**884 MT**  
of food provided to  
**103,000**  
affected people.

- WFP is switching to weekly distribution schedules instead of providing daily rations in all operational areas. WFP is working with the Government and partners to determine the exact number of affected people by location and priority areas to better design the response and identify possible gaps.

## Code of conduct

The Code of Conduct is elaborated by the International Federation of the Red Cross. Humanitarian Agencies belonging to the Humanitarian Country Team in Myanmar commit themselves to the code of conduct.

1. The humanitarian imperative comes first.
2. Aid is given regardless of the race, creed or nationality of the recipients and without adverse distinction of any kind. Aid priorities are calculated on the basis of need alone.
3. Aid will not be used to further a particular political or religious standpoint.
4. We shall endeavour not to act as instruments of government foreign policy.
5. We shall respect culture and custom.
6. We shall attempt to build disaster response on local capacities.
7. Ways shall be found to involve programme beneficiaries in the management of relief aid.
8. Relief aid must strive to reduce future vulnerabilities to disaster as well as meeting basic needs.
9. We hold ourselves accountable to both those we seek to assist and those from whom we accept resources.
10. In our information, publicity and advertizing activities, we shall recognize disaster victims as dignified human beings, not hopeless objects.



- Mobile medical teams from the Military, Ministry of Health, Myanmar Medical Association and UNFPA continue to provide basic health care services and awareness raising sessions in IDP camps in the affected locations. WHO reported that a total of 1,322 patients were attended in and provided medical treatment at relief camps in Sittwe, Buthidaung, Maungdaw and Rathedaung as of 26 June.
- In order to strengthen existing health facilities, UNICEF supported the Department Health with 30 Inter-Agency Emergency Health Kits, 20 cartoons of Oral Rehydration Salt and 200 eye drops and other medical supplies. Some 31 local Red Cross volunteers provided first aid, health education and psychosocial support in five camps in Sittwe town.
- MSF have recommenced antiretroviral therapy (ART) to HIV patients in Rakhine. By 6 July, some 150 patients are expected to be reached again with this life-saving medication. The local Red Cross volunteers provided health education and psychosocial support in five camps in Sittwe town.



- The Government has established 81 camps in four townships to accommodate some 55,000 people. The Government is constructing a number of the barrack-style shelter units outside Sittwe town to relocate the affected families. The Government indicated that some 500 tents are urgently needed for relocation of IDPs.
- UNHCR in Maungdaw has distributed NFIs kits (485 kitchen sets, 1,248 mosquito nets and blankets, 624 bars of soaps and plastic mats, 644 towels) to some 2,594 IDPs in seven camps in Maungdaw. The agency also distributed some 50 tarpaulin sheets in Bo Mhu village in Maungdaw Township.
- UNICEF has distributed some 500 family kits in affected locations. An additional 846 family kits will be distributed in coming days to displaced families whose homes were destroyed. Malteser has a total of 1,250 NFI kits in Sittwe and Maungdaw and has started its distribution activities.



- Water, sanitation and hygiene issues continue to be of a concern with reports of open defecation around the camps, poor disposal of waste and drainage systems and inadequate WASH facilities in most locations.
- To date, UNICEF supported the Department of Health with 15 drums of bleaching powder, 12,000 bottles of Water Guard, 1,534 sets of pipes and pans and 2,200 water buckets. With support from UNICEF, a local NGO completed the construction of 101 temporary latrines in 37 camps and distributed 1,000 bars of soaps and 100 buckets.

#### IV. Coordination

- In Sittwe, the Capital of Rakhine State, the Government has designated focal Ministers for coordination with partners by sectors, as per the table below:

Sector	Government Lead Department	Partners Agencies*
Health, Nutrition & Water and Sanitation	Minister of Social Affairs	ACF, Malteser, SCF, UNICEF
Shelter	Minister of Forestry	DRC, SCF, Solidarites, UNHCR
NFI	RRD (TBC)	ACF, ABCD, DRC, MRCS, SCF, Solidarites, UNHCR, UNICEF
Livelihoods, Agriculture & Early Recovery	Minister of Agriculture	CDN, DRC, Solidarites, SCF, UNDP
Food	Ministry of Planning	WFP

\*list to be integrated with additional agencies as more information becomes available.

- OCHA has organized a number of coordination meetings over the past weeks, in support of Government efforts in Yangon and Sittwe.

#### V. Contact

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