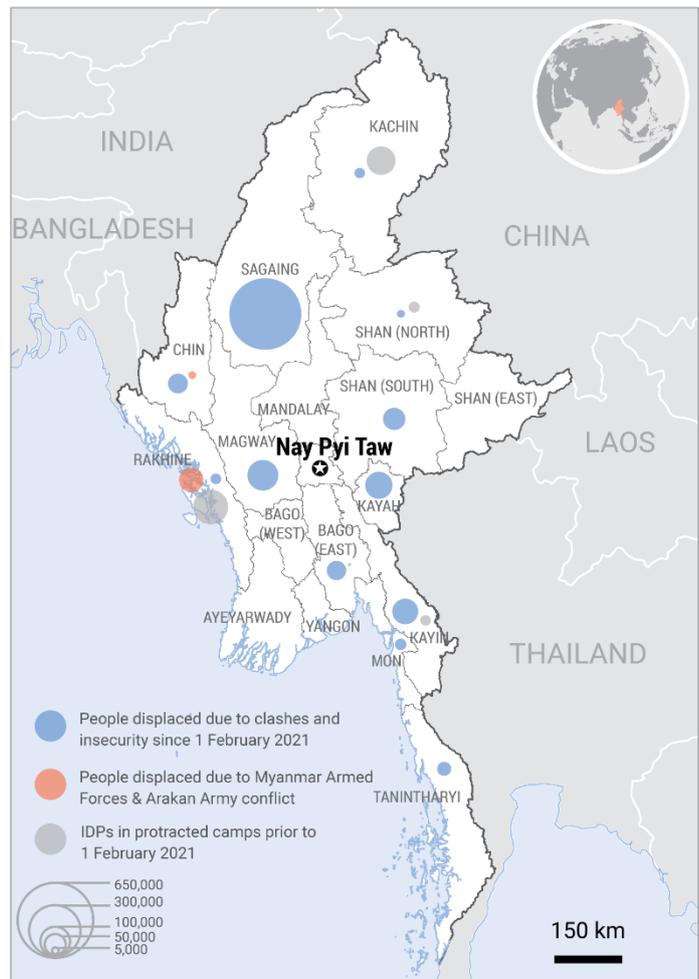


This regular update, covering humanitarian developments up to 25 October, is produced by OCHA Myanmar in collaboration with the Inter-Cluster Coordination Group and UN agencies. The next humanitarian update will be issued at the end of November 2022.

HIGHLIGHTS & KEY MESSAGES

- Ongoing hostilities across Myanmar continue to endanger safety of civilians. More than 1.4 million people have been displaced across the country, of whom more than 1.1 million were displaced since the 2021 military takeover.
- Ongoing conflict and inflation in the costs of basic commodities continue to compromise the food security of Myanmar people. An estimated 15.2 million people are now severely and moderately food insecure.
- Humanitarian partners continue to respond to the critical needs of affected and displaced people, reaching 3.1m people in the first half of the year and are continuing to scale-up and expand in newly affected areas.
- Food security partners have expanded presence and operations in the Northwest and Southeast. As of end of August, partners had provided food assistance to 626,000 IDPs, exceeding the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) target.
- In central Rakhine, WASH partners provided critical WASH supplies to 91 out of 119 sites for IDPs from previous Arakan Army (AA) -Myanmar Armed Forces (MAF) conflict, reaching more than 42,000 IDPs during September 2022.
- The 2022 HRP remains drastically underfunded with less support received so far in 2022 than at the same time in 2021, despite the dramatic surge in needs and inflation.
- As of 27 October, the HRP is only 22 per cent funded, leaving a gap of US\$643 million (FTS). Consequently, partners are being forced to prioritize assistance to people in most need and there are shortages of stocks in some parts of the country.



KEY FIGURES*

1.4M

People internally displaced across Myanmar

1.1M

People currently displaced by clashes and insecurity since February 2021

330K

People internally displaced due to conflict prior to February 2021, mainly in Rakhine, Kachin, and Shan

30.2K

Civilian properties estimated to have been burnt or destroyed since February 2021.¹

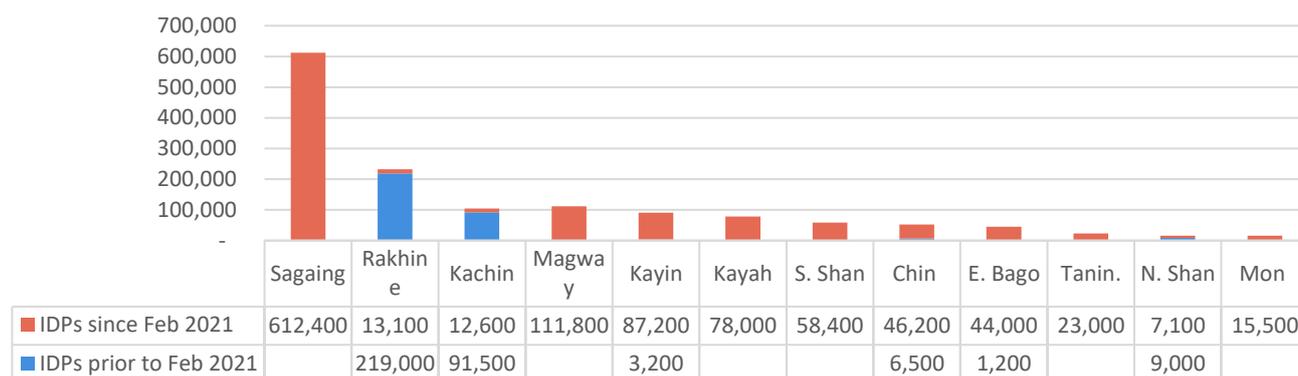
*Displacement figures fluctuate during any given month. These figures represent the number of people currently displaced. Cumulative numbers for returns and displacement are not always available.

¹Progressive Karenni People Force on Kayah (up to 30 September 2022), OCHA field data on Sagaing/Magway/Chin (up to 15 October 2022), Data for Myanmar in remaining states (up to 25 August 2022)

SITUATION OVERVIEW

Ongoing hostilities across Myanmar continue to endanger the lives, safety, mental health and livelihoods of civilians. Heavy armed clashes, including airstrikes, artillery fire and ambushes were reported predominantly in the northwest and southeast of the country, as well as in Rakhine and southern Chin. The surge in displacement continues, with more than 1.4 million people remain internally displaced across the country, of whom more than 1.1 million fled their homes since the 2021 military takeover.

Internally Displaced Persons in Myanmar



*UN figures as of 24 October 2022

■ IDPs prior to Feb 2021 ■ IDPs since Feb 2021

Inflation continues to drive increases in the cost of basic commodities. Combined with ongoing fighting, this puts affected and displaced people at tremendous security and protection risk and is compromising their food security. According to the World Food Program (WFP) and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), 15.2 million people are now severely and moderately food insecure. This multi-dimensional crisis is forcing people to adopt negative coping mechanisms, including lowering food intake, selling of assets, dropping out of school and early marriage.

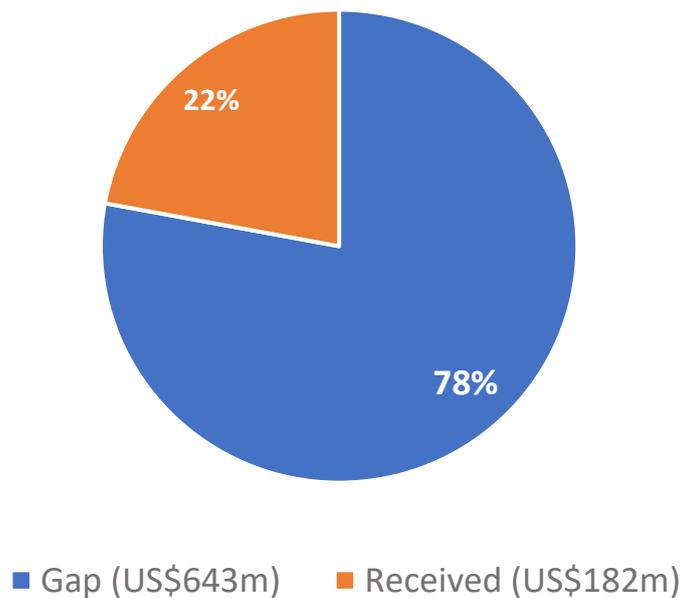
Humanitarian partners continue to respond to emerging humanitarian needs, providing food, shelter, health, water and sanitation, education and protection services to affected and displaced people across the country. During the first half of 2022, 3.1 million people were reached and provided with critical and lifesaving assistance. Humanitarian partners continue to scale-up and expand in newly affected areas. For instance, food security partners have expanded their presence and operations in the Northwest and Southeast. As of end of August, partners have provided food assistance to 626,000 IDPs, exceeding the HRP target. In central Rakhine, WASH partners provided critical supplies to 91 out of 119 pre-existing AA-MAF displacement sites, reaching more than 42,000 IDPs during September 2022. Furthermore, in early October, an inter-agency multi-sectoral distribution mission was conducted in four townships in southern Shan. More than 1,600 displaced households (6,200 IDPs) were provided with humanitarian assistance based on a previous assessment.



IDPs from Kayah receiving relief items during an inter-agency distribution mission in Taunggyi in southern Shan, October 2022, OCHA

Despite these operational efforts, access constraints continue to prevent partners from accessing many areas including some locations where people have the most urgent need for lifesaving assistance and protection. A shortfall in funding is undermining efforts to respond in areas where there is access. This has stopped partners from delivering the full range of relief required by affected people in a consistent manner, which in turn has resulted in significant unmet needs. According to FTS, as of 27 October, the Humanitarian Response Plan is only 22 per cent funded, leaving a gap of US\$643 million.

Myanmar Humanitarian Response Plan 2022 (US\$826m)



Protection and humanitarian needs grow as hostilities continue

Armed conflict in multiple states and regions is continuing to claim lives, displace men, women and children, destroy homes and sources of livelihood, and pose severe protection risks for the people of Myanmar.

In Kachin State, dozens of people, including civilians, were reportedly killed and injured in an airstrike in Hpakant township on 23 October. Hpakant township has witnessed a spiral of armed conflict in the past two months between the MAF and KIA, which had already displaced more than 3,000 people, especially from Se Zin village, who are currently being hosted in several villages around Hpakant town. Frequent clashes between the MAF and the joint forces of the KIA and local PDFs have also continued in Shwegu township since 22 September and the MAF has been reinforcing its troops in the area. About 1,000 people from several villages were consequently displaced to urban areas of Shwegu town. As of mid-October, most of them have returned to their villages of origin, while more than 100 IDPs remained at 3 monasteries in Shwegu town, as of 19 October. Local partners have been feeding the remaining IDPs. Overall, an estimated 12,600 people remain displaced across Kachin because of fighting and insecurity since the 2021 military takeover according to latest UN figures, as of 24 October. This is in addition to the 91,500 people who were displaced prior to 2021.

In Rakhine and southern Chin, renewed fighting between the MAF and the AA since August has continued in several townships, including in Buthidaung, Kyauktaw, Maungdaw, Minbya, Myebon, Mrauk-U, Ponnagyun and Rathedaung in Rakhine and in Paletwa in southern Chin. As of 25 October, according to UN figures, Buthidaung township hosts the highest number of newly displaced people with more than 5,300 IDPs, followed by Rathedaung and Mrauk-U with around 2,000 IDPs in each township. More than 16,500 people are now displaced as a result of the flare up since August, bringing the total number of IDPs from past and present AA-MAF fighting to more than 90,500. In addition,

arbitrary arrests and the use of indiscriminate artillery fire and airstrikes have been reported in several townships in northern and central Rakhine.

Restrictions on humanitarian access as a result of physical and bureaucratic obstacles, such as the closure of roads and waterways between Sittwe and other townships; installation of checkpoints and tight scrutiny; and refusal of or delays in issuing Travel Authorizations (TAs) have hampered humanitarian operations, particularly in the six townships of Buthidaung, Maungdaw, Minbya, Mrauk-U, Myebon and Rathedaung. Despite these restrictions, humanitarians were able to provide emergency assistance to some new IDPs. Food, shelter, other essential services and relief items remain the priority humanitarian needs for the new IDPs. Advocacy efforts are ongoing to lift access restrictions in these areas to facilitate the delivery of critical humanitarian assistance to newly affected and displaced people.

In the Northwest, fighting between the MAF and local PDFs involving ambushes, mortar fire and air strikes, continue to raise protection and humanitarian concerns in Chin, Magway and Sagaing. Hostilities and house raids in many townships across Sagaing, including villages in Banmauk and Indaw townships in the region's north, have caused further displacement. Close to 3,000 people have been displaced to Indaw and more than 850 people have been displaced to Katha township due to hostilities and insecurity since early October, according to partners. These IDPs originated from Paypin in Banmauk township and Kyaukai villages in Tigyain township. One of the local partners could not distribute NFIs and COVID-19 preventative items to these IDPs because of access constraints, and instead distributed cash-for-food assistance in Katha township.

The overall number of IDPs in the Northwest significantly increased in October. As of 24 October, more than 770,400 people remain displaced across the Northwest by conflict and insecurity since the military takeover. This represents 69 per cent of all IDPs across the country since February 2021, according to the latest UN figures. This includes 46,200 IDPs in Chin; 111,800 IDPs in Magway; and 612,400 IDPs in Sagaing. The estimated number of people who remain displaced in India from these areas stands at 48,800. In addition, as of 15 October, more than 28,029 houses are estimated to have been burnt down since the military takeover, the vast majority of which were recorded in Sagaing (22,695).

In northern Shan, a series of armed clashes involving the MAF and various armed groups took place in Kutkai, Manton, Mongmit, Muse, Namtu and Nawngkhio townships, but there were no reports of major displacement. Humanitarian partners reported that nearly 1,000 IDPs who had been sheltering in a church compound in Hseni township and with relatives in Ho Hsant village in Kyaukme township, returned to their villages of origin during the first two weeks of October. According to the latest UN figures, as of 24 October, approximately 16,100 people remain in temporary displacement sites and protracted camps in northern Shan.

Forced recruitment remains a major concern in northern Shan. On 9 October, three young men from Kun San Leik village in Hsipaw township were allegedly abducted and forcibly recruited by an EAO, according to local sources. On 18 October, six men from Pang Son and Pang Pyay and Kun Hauk villages, were also abducted and forcibly recruited by an EAO. Since the beginning of 2022, a total of 127 forced recruitment incidents have been recorded across 9 townships in northern Shan, according to initial reports by local sources and protection partners.

Across the Southeast fighting has continued between the MAF and the combined forces of various EAOs and PDFs impacting on almost all states and regions. In Kayah, armed clashes between the MAF and the KNDF continued in several townships, particularly in the area between Loikaw town in Kayah and Hsiseng town in southern Shan. The de facto security forces have been scrutinizing and investigating people and vehicles travelling along the road between these two towns, according to local partners. On 8 October, a heavy weapon, reportedly fired from Demoso police station, exploded in an IDP camp, injuring two women. The MAF have reportedly restricted imports of food and medicines into Kayah State. Months-long access restrictions have impacted on the delivery of humanitarian assistance to all areas in Kayah, except the Loikaw urban area. Displaced people in the state are currently relying heavily on donations to meet their basic needs (i.e. rice and medicines), but the capacity for people to provide donations is decreasing due to a lack of items in markets and the increasing cost of basic commodities.

In Kayin, continued armed clashes between the MAF and joint EAO/PDF forces have been reported in Hpa-an, Kawkareik, Kyainseikgyi and Myawaddy townships since early October. On 6 October, a monk was injured and his monastery was severely damaged reportedly due to airstrikes in Mekatha village in Kyainseikgyi township. On 12 October, a woman was reportedly killed and three children were injured due to indiscriminate shooting along the Hpa-an-Zarthapyin road in Hpa-an township. On 15 October, two bombs exploded simultaneously in populated areas of Myawaddy city, injuring a civilian and destroying two cars nearby. On 21 October, the EAO/PDF joint forces launched offensive attacks against the MAF in Kawkareik town and the MAF retaliated with artillery fire and aerial strikes.

Consequently, at least four civilians were killed, and 20 others were injured, according to media reports, while several houses were destroyed, and many residents were trapped in the town.

In Mon, sporadic clashes were reported in several townships. On 12 October, at least 3 civilians were reportedly killed and another 17 people were injured during armed clashes at a popular Buddhist pilgrimage site in Kyaikhto township. Access remains constrained across most parts of the Southeast. Despite these challenges, humanitarians have managed to reach affected and displaced communities to provide critical lifesaving assistance.

In Tanintharyi Region in late October, the MAF reportedly launched an offensive in many villages, including Taungpyauk area of Thayetchaung township. Moreover, on 24 October, the MAF reportedly launched artillery fire on Ka De village of Palaw township, injuring at least 3 villagers and destroying several houses, according to local sources.

Overall displacement figures have increased across the Southeast since the end of September. According to the latest UN figures, as of 24 October, about 299,500 people remain displaced in collective centres and host communities in various townships across the Southeast since 1 February 2021. This includes 78,000 IDPs in Kayah; 87,200 IDPs in Kayin; 58,400 IDPs in southern Shan; 15,500 IDPs in Mon; 23,000 IDPs in Tanintharyi; and 44,000 IDPs in eastern Bago.

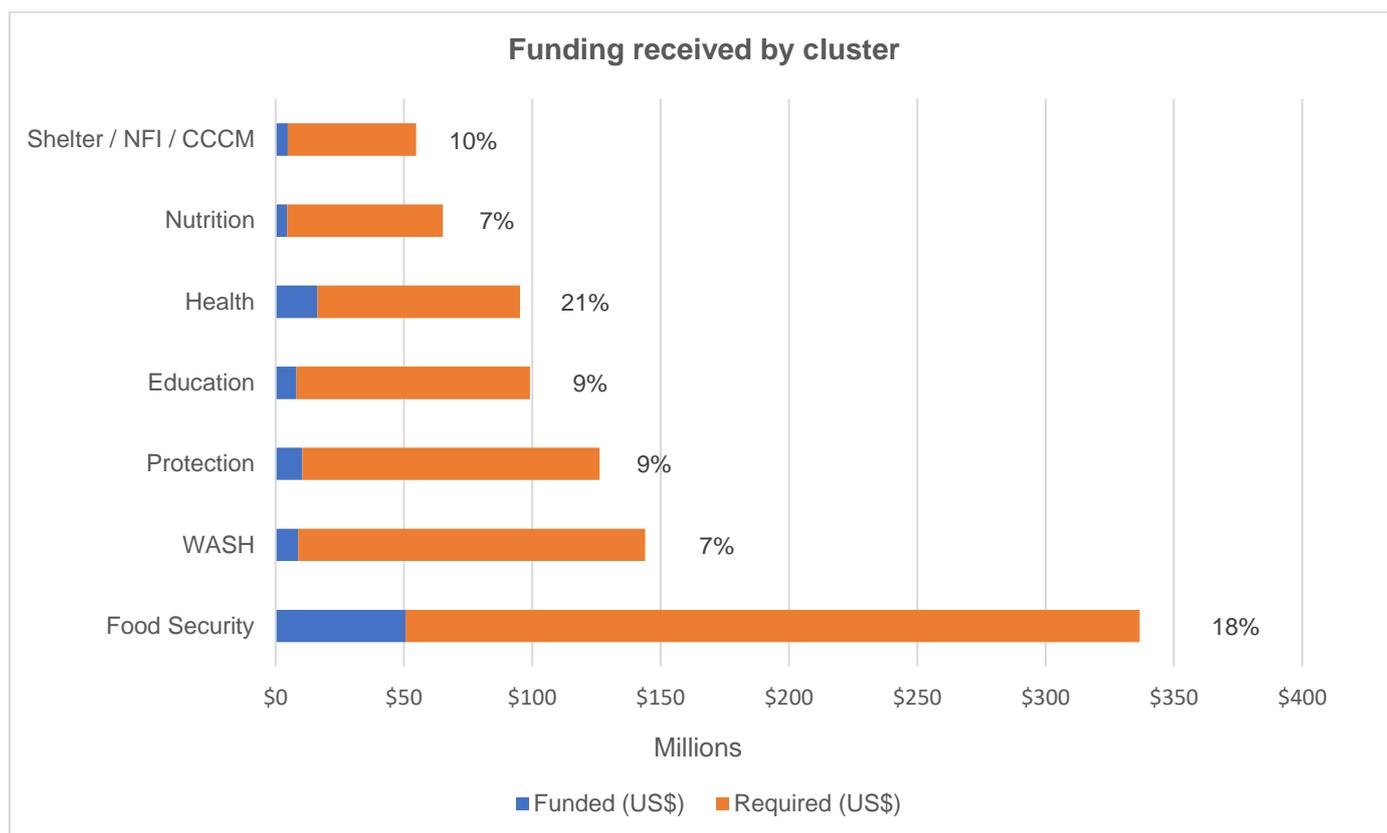
HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

Humanitarian Access: Humanitarian access remains severely constrained by movement restrictions imposed by the de facto authorities. In Rakhine, humanitarian activities have been severely hampered by additional access restrictions imposed in six townships, including the three northern townships, since 15 September. More recently, critical shipments of medical supplies have also been stopped from reaching the State. However, following recent advocacy efforts, food distributions are soon expected to resume in these areas. Delays in issuing travel authorizations (TAs) and visa extensions for NGOs with expired MoUs continue to negatively affect ongoing operations. For instance, 30 projects of a long-serving partner that provide services to 120,000 people nationwide might be significantly interrupted if TAs continue to be delayed.

In Chin, military checkpoints have blocked access for humanitarian shipments along key routes to townships such as Paletwa, Matupi, Thantlang, Falam and Hakha. Increased checkpoint-related access barriers have also been reported in Kayah following the shooting incident at Loikaw airport on 30 September. Access constraints related to military operations and ongoing hostilities also continue to impede humanitarian operations. In one incident in Magway, a humanitarian partner was forced to withdraw all humanitarian personnel from a field activity because of military operations. In Kayah, a local CSO office was damaged in an attack with heavy weapons. There were no reported casualties in the incident. In Chin, eastern Bago, Kayah, Kayin and northern Shan several partners reported that they had to cancel all planned activities due ongoing clashes and military operations. Recent explosive ordnance incidents have also affected humanitarian actors in Rakhine and Sagaing, leaving two humanitarian staff severely injured.

At the same time, interference in humanitarian activities continues to obstruct our operations. In several instances where interference occurred, humanitarian actors were forced to change programmes or only partially implement activities due to specific instructions imposed by parties to the conflict. Humanitarians continue to advocate with all relevant stakeholders to secure an unimpeded and safe access to people in need and ensure the delivery of critical lifesaving assistance.

Funding situation by cluster: As of end of October, funding for the 2022 HRP is 22 per cent of requirements with all clusters seriously underfunded, threatening their ability to respond to growing needs and leaving gaps in response. Given the surge in displacement and soaring needs, especially in the Northwest (69 per cent of all new IDPs since the military takeover) and more recently in Rakhine, increased resources are urgently required to support a meaningful package of support to affected people. Funding constraints, coupled with access restrictions, continue to affect the breadth and quality of assistance delivered by humanitarians, forcing partners to heavily prioritize their assistance as outlined in [HRP Mid-Year Monitoring Report](#). Donors are urged to give generously to prevent further suffering, mitigate the risks negative coping strategies by affected and displaced people, and a loss of hard-fought development gains.



Education in Emergencies

Needs

- In Kachin, most of the teachers from return and resettlement sites need training support. In addition, the de facto authorities in some townships, particularly in Puta-O, have not paid teachers whose salaries are covered half by the de facto authorities and half by the community. Accordingly, the communities, together with some NGOs and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), are paying full salaries as a short-term support. Incentive payments to attract more teachers across the country are critically needed as more children are attending community schools.
- In Shan, there are procurement challenges because some teaching and learning materials, especially kindergarten and first grade textbooks, are unavailable in local markets. At the same time, the number of enrolled children is increasing.
- In the Southeast, access to education is an issue due to insufficient teachers, classrooms, and teaching and learning materials. This has been reported in for early childhood, primary and secondary education.
- Greater support for vocational training and education is currently needed.

Response

- In Kayah and southern Shan, education service providers continue to provide basic education services; implement 'Bring Back Learning' programs; establish and renovate Temporary Learning Spaces; and provide support for early childhood development to ensure continuous learning activities for children.
- In southern Shan, education service providers have resumed non-formal primary education, which had been suspended for two weeks in Nyaung Shwe township following two arrests in Yangon monastery camp in the same township.
- In Rakhine, Education Cluster partners continue implementing Education in Emergency (EiE) activities in IDP camps.
- In the Southeast, Education Cluster partners are working to increase access to education by providing non-formal education, vocational training and establishing community schools.

Gaps & Constraints

- In Shan, educational activities have been suspended in two villages in Pekon township since 26 August after they were attacked with artillery fire.

- In Kachin, access to education for many displaced children is challenging as their families are on the move and have not yet settled at displacement sites or places of return.
- High and unstable inflation has made it harder for parents to afford tuition fees and learning materials.

Food Security

Needs

- Ongoing conflict and the economic crisis continue to compromise the food security of Myanmar people.
- Humanitarian access remains challenging, especially in the Northwest and Southeast. Programmatic and coordination efforts are required to increase the number of beneficiaries reached in these areas.
- Data from the fourth round of the FAO-WFP Joint Food Security and Livelihoods Assessment and local partners indicate the following:
 - 15.2 million people are severely and moderately food insecure, an increase from 13.2 million people during this period last year.
 - Increased rates of insufficient overall food consumption, jumping from 19 per cent to 24 per cent between August/September 2021 to 2022.
 - Households reporting decreases in area planted increased from 15 per cent to 23 per cent between August/September in 2021 and 2022. This reduction in area planted was slightly more pronounced among rice and cash crop producers, compared to producers of vegetables, fruit or nuts.
 - Challenges to crop production remain, including reported ongoing difficulties in accessing fertilizer, below-average rainfall and insufficient fuel.
- The price of a food basket has increased by 65 per cent since this time last year, according to WFP market monitoring.

Response

- FSC partners have made progress in accessing hard-to-reach areas, especially in the Northwest and Southeast. A total of 13 partners are now present in more than 5 townships, and 8 partners are now present in more than 10 townships. For comparison, in the first quarter of 2022, only 6 partners were present in more than 5 townships demonstrating significant outreach and scale-up.
- Across the country, partners have provided food assistance to 626,071 IDPs between January and August 2022, exceeding the HRP target of 556,000 IDPs.
- FSC partners have provided food assistance to 2,199,247 crisis-affected non-IDP, representing 75 per cent of its targeted 2,944,000 crisis-affected non-IDPs, between January and August 2022.
- FSC partners have provided agriculture and livelihoods support to 159,140 vulnerable people, representing 19 per cent of its goal to reach 850,000 people, between January and August 2022

Gaps & Constraints

- The amount of provided cash assistance is still less than the average Food Security contribution to the minimum expenditure basket (MEB), as calculated in 2021.
- Agriculture and livelihood support remains insufficient, compromising efforts to maintain food availability, including in hard-to-reach areas.

Health

Needs

- Amid ongoing fighting and displacement, there is a continued need for timely and effective emergency medical care in conflict affected areas.
- The monsoon season has seen a significant increase in the reported number of malaria cases, driving an urgent need for malaria drugs, diagnostic rapid-tests and long-lasting insecticidal bed nets.
- Restrictions on the movement of people and transport of goods supplied to crisis-affected communities continue to drive unmet need for essential medicines.

Response

- In Rakhine, essential healthcare services were provided to 13,147 people across 10 townships in September.
- In Kachin, 2,311 people across 5 townships received essential health care services in September.
- In northern Shan, 2,288 people across 7 townships received essential health care services in September.
- In Sagaing, 6,800 people across 6 townships received health care services in September.

- In Chin, 1,200 dignity kits and 50 clean delivery kits were distributed in Paletwa township, and 800 dignity kits and 40 clean delivery kits were distributed in Mindat township in September.
- In Kayin, 107 pregnant mothers from Hlaingbwe, Hpapun, Myawaddy, and Thandaunggyi townships received emergency obstetric care referral support and 92 children received emergency child referral support. A total of 685 people from Hlaingbwe and Thandaunggyi townships received primary healthcare services through mobile clinics in September.
- In Kayah, emergency referral support was provided to critically ill people.
- In eastern Bago, 140 displaced women received sexual and reproductive healthcare services through mobile clinics in Taungoo township in September.

Gaps/Challenges

- Intensified armed clashes and travel restrictions faced by some partners have impacted mobile clinic activities, the provision of primary health care services, and the timely transport of supplies in conflict-affected areas.
- Increasing security at checkpoints and high fuel prices driven by fuel scarcity and inflation have impacted on operational procedures.
- In Rakhine, due to the ongoing movement restrictions imposed in Buthidaung, Minbya, Mrauk-U, Myebon, Maungdaw and Rathedaung townships since mid-September, the operation of 22 out of 44 mobile clinics was suspended.

Nutrition

Needs

- Nationwide, there is a need to increase capacity among nutrition partners for the screening and referral of children suffering from severe acute malnutrition (SAM).
- In the Southeast, nutrition partners need MUAC tapes and reference books, as well as MUAC training to implement their programming.
- In Kayah, IDPs reported on a shortage of food and essential medicines due to insecurity and fighting across the Southeast.
- In Kayin, one partner reported a need for supplies of adult MUAC tapes for PLW and nutrition supplies (i.e. ready-to-use therapeutic food - RUTF) for SAM children in Thandaungyi, KyarInnSeikgyi and Kawkareik townships.
- In Sagaing and Magway, nutrition partners need tools to implement Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) activities and awareness raising sessions.
- In Rakhine, around 2,100 malnourished children receiving in-treatment, and around 500 malnourished women receiving in-treatment, face services disruptions and supply shortages in the restricted townships. In addition, around 130 newly detected cases of malnutrition have not yet received proper treatment due to treatment centres closing, according to implementing partners.

Response

- In Rakhine state, preventative activities are being implemented by community-based focal points and the quality of services is being monitored through remote weekly calls due to active fighting. In parallel, nutrition partners continue to advocate with the township medical officers and health officials to ensure continuity of nutrition services.
- In Kayin, a nutrition partner has been conducting screening of malnourished children and pregnant and lactating women (PLW) in Thandaungyi, KyarInnSeikgyi and Kawkareik townships in September.
- In the Southeast, nutrition partners continued to provide children with nutrition services, including active MUAC screening and distribute micro-nutrient powder and tablets
- In the Northwest, an INGO is providing supplies for the treatment of SAM cases in Natmawk and Chauk townships in Magway, and Falam and Tedim townships in Chin. Requests for supplies for treating MAM and SAM cases in Paletwa township are being processed.
- In the Northwest, the Nutrition Cluster has been conducting the following activities:
 - Coordinating among nutrition partners the management of SAM and MAM cases.
 - Conducting regular monitoring of partners' activities to map out ongoing responses, gaps in needs, as well as access constraints and other challenges.
- UNICEF conducted Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) refresher training for 15 field-based staff from its partner organizations in early October.

Gaps & Constraints

- Nutrition partners continue to face challenges in conducting regular nutrition monitoring visits and responses and obtaining accurate nutrition data from affected people due to fighting, movement restrictions, unstable internet and telecommunication services, and poor road conditions due to the rainy season.
- The high cost of transport due to inflation continues to negatively affect the delivery of essential nutrition services and supplies within and between townships.
- Nutrition activities in Kampalet and Mindat townships have been postponed due to difficulties in transporting supplies, including information, education and communication (IEC) materials, because of the presence of checkpoints across Chin, Sagaing and the northern part of Magway.
- In Rakhine, only a few nutrition partners were granted TAs for October to access the unrestricted townships and provide nutrition services, while nutrition activities in the six restricted townships are still pending. The Nutrition Cluster is exploring ways to overcome this constraint.

Protection

Needs

- In Rakhine, the following needs have been identified due to ongoing active conflict between the AA and MAF in September:
 - Intensified clashes in Minbya, Mrauk-U, Kyauktaw, and Ponnagyun townships have resulted in civilian casualties. Residents from Rohingya and Kaman villages and camps, especially in Sittwe and Kyauk Ta Lone in Kyaukpyu township fear moving outside their homes due to fighting.
 - The de facto authorities continued to push for IDPs affected by the AA-MAF conflict to return to their villages of origin by the end of October 2022 raising safety and security concerns as fighting is still ongoing.
 - Restrictions on humanitarian access in Buthidaung, Maungdaw, Minbya, Mrauk-U, Myebon and Rathedaung townships are still in place, hampering humanitarian operations. However, following recent advocacy efforts, food distributions are soon expected to resume in these areas.
 - IDPs are facing delays in food rations, coupled with increases in prices for rice and other commodities in markets. Aerial bombardment in northern Maungdaw has limited people's ability to carry out any livelihood activities in the forest.
 - The recent steps by the de facto authorities regarding temporary movement permission cards (blue card) to the owners of motorbikes and Tuk Tuks in Sittwe township, as well as requests for informal payments have further affected people's access to vital services, particularly the Rohingya population, who are already limited in their freedom of movement and lack support networks in urban areas.
 - There is a need for protection services, including psychosocial support, for persons with disability and sex workers, according to GBV partners.
- In Shan, the following needs have been identified:
 - IDPs sheltering in southern Shan are potentially facing significant challenges as the October deadline for return approaches. The de facto authorities have said people will be de-listed from their assistance if they do not return to their place of origin. This raises protection concerns about the voluntariness of return and people's safety and security.
 - There is a need for winterization kits, emergency relief items and cash assistance for IDPs sheltering in southern Shan as they are not likely to return to their places of origin due to insecurity and fighting. They reported that they might move within southern Shan. IEC materials & EORE awareness are paramount before returns take place to Kayah State due to the high risk of landmines.
 - Despite the hard immediate deadlines for camp closure in northern Shan being removed, IDPs are still facing pressure to return. Most of the camps still face possible closure in 2022 or early 2023
- In Kayin, Mon and eastern Bago, arbitrary arrest and detention, forced labour, to children under-five during September. the risk of trafficking, and civilian casualties due to shelling and airstrikes remain the main risks.
- In Kachin, inadequate funds, shelters, jobs, livelihood support and other sectoral services in return villages as part of durable solutions efforts where IDPs are resettled or reintegrated is hampering the re-integration of IDPs and the pursuit of solutions. There is a need for flexible funding for transitional solutions in 2023 to support the resumption of community initiatives allowing IDPs to return, locally integrate, or resettle.
- In Kachin, partners reported increased cases of drug abuse among adolescents and youth. UNICEF is reaching out to UNODC for further action.
- In Kachin, safety audits in IDP camps in Bhamo identified blocked toilets, inadequate water and lighting, broken locks on bathrooms and toilets, and the need for repair of camp fences.
- In the Northwest, existing services remain limited compared to the needs, particularly in Sagaing, which hosts the highest number of IDPs. Increased programming for child protection, gender-based violence, mine action, mental health and psychosocial support, and other protection activities remains a priority.

- Landmines and explosive remnants of war (ERW) continue to pose a threat to the life and safety of civilians in Myanmar. Due to worsening conflict, assistance to the increasing number of explosive ordnance (EO) victims is still urgently needed.
- There is a need for psychosocial support for EO victim-survivors and children with serious medical conditions. Many IDPs are also reporting increasing mental health challenges and are requesting psychosocial support (PSS) services, according to local partners.

Response

- Child protection training and capacity building activities on psychological first aid (PFA), monitoring and reporting mechanisms (MRM) and clinical management packages for child survivors of violence were conducted for 76 aid workers in Rakhine and the Northeast.
- The Child Protection AoR has developed a service package tool which will be used to guide the minimum child protection services that must be monitored, provided and pre-positioned.
- In Rakhine, the following activities were undertaken in September:
 - Humanitarian actors continued to collaboratively advocate for access to the restricted townships in Rakhine and southern Chin.
 - Protection partners continue to carry out monitoring of protection violations (arbitrary detentions, killings, extortion, physical abuse, maiming, etc.) to better inform advocacy and operational responses.
 - Protection partners continued with their advocacy efforts with the relevant authorities around safe, voluntary and dignified return of IDPs.
 - In Rakhine, more than 800 child protection kits have been pre-positioned in Mrauk-U and Kyauktaw. Due to access challenges, a minimum package of Child Protection services was developed and shared with key partners to guide the activities of local NGOs and CSOs. The minimum package spells out the priorities, areas of focus and intervention. Child Protection capacity building activities on this minimum service package were carried out with partners in Rakhine in September.
 - GBV partners have been delivering some services via remote modalities including hotline/helpline services. GBV case management services and safe houses have continued although with some limitations. GBV partners distributed 111 dignity kits before the enforcement of movement restrictions in the six townships.
- In the Southeast the following activities were undertaken in September:
 - UNHCR and UNICEF partners organized EORE awareness sessions for 30,000 people in Myawaddy, Kawkareik, and Kyainseikgyi townships of Kayin, and in Loikaw, Demoso, and Hpruso townships of Kayah.
 - Mine victim assistance was provided to 19 people in Kayin and Bago east.
 - A total of 145 children received case management services, while 3,200 children and youths received mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS)/PFA and 3,000 child protection kits were distributed in Loikaw, Demoso, and Hpruso townships of Kayah; Myawaddy township in Kayin; Bilin and Thaton townships in Mon, and Taungoo and Htantabin townships in eastern Bago.
 - UNFPA distributed 1,000 dignity kits and 27 children's dignity kits in IDPs camps in Loikaw township.
 - The Child Protection AoR supported gender profile assessment data collection in coordination with local NGOs, CSOs, in IDP camps in Kayin and Tanintharyi.
- In Kachin, the following activities were undertaken in September:
 - UNHCR organized a community-based protection workshop for 30 community representatives including village, youth and women leaders from three 'solutions' villages in Momauk township covering protection risk analysis and basic project management. Communities will be able to access small funds to implement community-based responses following the workshop.
 - Safety audit exercises were conducted in IDP camps in Bhamo of Kachin State. Several GBV partners are responding to the safety audit findings, along with Shelter and WASH partners.
 - GBV partners distributed 361 dignity kits in Sadung and Tamahkan camps; 154 dignity kits in Moegaung, Waingmaw and Tanai areas; and 124 hygiene kits in the two new camps in Momauk.
- In Shan, the following activities were undertaken in September:
 - In northern Shan, GBV partners and local counterparts distributed 314 dignity kits to IDPs in blocks 7 and 9 of Lashio city in Lashio township, in Ho Kho village IDP site and Doe Pin village IDP site in Naungkhio township, and Namatu IDP site in Namatu township. In addition, 1,121 clean delivery kits (CDK) were given to partners in combination with a distribution guidance session.
 - In southern Shan, services are available and accessible through local actors due to the better networks; yet certain public services such as healthcare are still largely unavailable. UNFPA distributed 1,000 dignity kits and 27 clean delivery kits to 16 downtown IDP camps and 1 ward in Loikaw township. CDKs were also distributed through partners.
- In Chin State, 1,200 dignity kits and 60 CDKs were distributed in Paletwa township, and 800 dignity kits and 30 clean delivery kits were distributed in Mindat township.

Gaps & Constraints

- Access constraints continue to limit EORE awareness activities in conflict-affected areas. The increase in informal levies on NGOs and CSOs, mainly in Sagaing and Magway, has further hindered delivery of services.
- In the Southeast, checkpoints, extensive road blockages and unpredictable armed clashes, security threats and landmine accidents continue to limit the work of humanitarian and create difficulties obtaining access and authorization to provide assistance.
- In eastern Bago, Mong and Kyauk Gyi townships, thousands of IDPs are completely inaccessible due to the ongoing clashes.
- In southern Shan, funds for psychosocial support are limited, mainly affecting children. This, coupled with the lack of education, recreational and social activities, is adding to the stresses on children.
- In northern Shan, localized restrictions on food transportation to Kone Kyan (Kokeng Region) by the SAC since April and restrictions on INGOs traveling to Mongkoe remain a major concern.
- In Kachin, tensions remain high leading to the temporary closure of the Bhamo-Mandalay Road, which in turn delayed UNHCR's shipment of relief items to Ngar Oke village (state boundary).
- The Northwest, where humanitarian needs are highest, must be prioritized by partners and donors for funding and rapid response. While some new programs are being established, responses remain limited.

Shelter, Non-Food Items (NFIs), Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM)

Needs

- In northern Shan and Kachin, close to 11,500 shelter units need new construction, repair or renovation. While 2,895 shelter units are planned for new construction, repair and renovation, there is still a gap 8,580 units at a value of \$7 million. In addition, there is a need for reconstruction of 26 shelter units and renovation of 7 shelter units in two IDP camps in Chipwi township in Kachin, according to a recent needs assessment by partners.
- In central Rakhine, funding is required for contingency stocks of shelter and NFI materials and storage space for 2,500 household NFIs kits across the AA-MAF displacement sites. Pre-positioning of stocks around different townships allows partners to mitigate against some of the impacts of conflict-related access restrictions.

Response

- UNHCR and its implementing partners distributed non-food items to 1,059 displaced households (5,347 IDPs) in Nan Mae Khon Town in Kayah State and, in 2 IDP sites and 21 villages in Loikaw and Demoso townships, respectively, while 114 displaced households (577 IDPs) who have returned to Loikaw and Demoso, received roofing sheets.
- In Kachin, partners distributed NFIs to about 450 households who were displaced from Sezin village of Hpakant township and who have been in displacement sites in Hpakant and Mohnyin townships since September. In addition, partners distributed NFI replenishments in two displacement sites in Hpakant township, reaching more than 300 displaced households. A rapid needs assessment was also conducted in Hpakant township and food assistance was provided as well.
- In central Rakhine, the Cluster continues to work to ensure maximum contingency stocks are available across townships affected by access restrictions. To date, partners have provided NFI assistance to 790 newly displaced households and shelter assistance to 210 newly displaced households, largely through pre-positioned contingency stocks and private shelter material suppliers.
- In the Northwest, cluster members are planning to distribute NFIs and winter kits to IDPs in several townships in Pakokku district in Magway. Depending on the availability of funding, NFI distribution is planned in Kale township in Sagaing in October.
- In Kayin, one partner distributed 818 roofing sheets (272 for clinics, 416 for schools and 130 for latrines) for IDPs in Myawaddy township, and other partners provided NFI assistance and roofing sheets for schools, health centers and latrines in Sa Khan Thit IDP settlement site, Hpa Lu Village Tract in Myawaddy township benefiting 417 households (1,389 people).

Gaps & Constraints

- In Rakhine, movement restrictions on the six townships (Buthidaung, Maungdaw, Mrauk-U, Minbya, Myebon and Rathedaung) continue to cause disruptions to services. All other conflict-affected townships, with exception of Sittwe and Pauktaw, remain inaccessible outside of urban areas due to security concerns.
- In Rakhine, the access restrictions have directly prevented the distribution of NFIs to at least 2,070 households (about 9,300 people) in AA-MAF displacement sites in Mrauk-U and Myebon townships; the distribution of NFIs to 2,800 households (about 12,600 people) in Ann, Kyauktaw and Ponnagyun townships; and shelter/NFI responses to new IDPs, particularly in rural areas.

- In the Northwest, lack of access and availability of supplies in markets for shelter and other relief items remains a major challenge for implementation, while procurement from cities is challenging amid tight scrutiny through multiple security checkpoints.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Needs

- In Rakhine, 91 out of 113 AA-MAF displacement sites (81 per cent) have access to sufficient water. 40 per cent remain without appropriate sanitation; and 76 per cent still have hygiene gaps (Cluster 3W analysis, September 2022).
- In the Northwest, 355 of 655 displacement sites (51 per cent) covered by WASH partners still lack appropriate sanitation, and 94 per cent of them reportedly had hygiene gaps in September 2022 due to funding and access constraints (Cluster 3W analysis, September 2022).
- In northern Shan, WASH services remain critically needed in five IDP camps in Kutkai township that are planned for closure, according to an interagency assessment conducted in mid-September 2022. The needs include installation of a new water pipeline supply system and 2 new water reservoirs; renovation of a pipeline system; construction of 3 bathing spaces and 32 individual household latrine units; and provision of essential hygiene items.
- In the Southeast, an increasing number of IDPs in eastern Bago and Tanintharyi regions critically need personal hygiene items and purification tablets for drinking water, in addition to basic food and non-food items.

Response

- In central Rakhine, WASH partners provided critical WASH supplies to 91 out of 119 pre-existing AA-MAF displacement sites in 8 townships, reaching 42,393 IDPs during September 2022. These supplies included 21 water filters, 75 jerrycans, 1,455 hygiene kits, 2,620 bars of soap and 1,439 sanitary pads; WASH partners additionally hosted 108 hygiene promotion sessions.
- In the Northwest, WASH partners distributed 425 water filters, 13,398 jerrycans and water buckets, 12,150 hygiene kits, 4,002 bars of soap and 8,283 sanitary pads in September 2022, reaching:
 - 38,214 IDPs in 224 of 329 displacement sites across 7 townships in Chin.
 - 3,519 IDPs in 21 of 52 displacement sites in 2 townships in Magway.
 - 63,957 IDPs in 59 of 243 displacement sites in 10 townships in Sagaing.
- In northern Shan, WASH partners distributed emergency hygiene kits and water containers to 95 households (257 people) in temporary displacement sites in Namtu township in September 2022.
- In Mon and Tanintharyi, 20,716 people affected by conflict and floods received jerrycans, buckets, water purification sachets and personal hygiene items in September.
- In Kayah State, a partner distributed hygiene kits, water buckets and IEC materials related to COVID-19 prevention to 21,095 IDPs from 4,736 households in 48 locations across Demoso and Loikaw townships between 19 and 26 September.

Gaps & Constraints

- Land issues continue to present significant challenges for WASH infrastructure and repairs, particularly in IDP camps in Sittwe township, where landlords are trying to claim land compensation from humanitarian organizations.
- Funding constraints resulted in monthly hygiene kit distributions being disrupted for some of the WASH partners in AA-MAF displacement sites.
- In the Northwest, WASH partners face serious challenges in reaching affected people due to humanitarian access constraints, blocked transport routes and insecurity.
- In Kachin, there continues to be a lack of hygiene items for new IDPs, returnees and resettled people in 20 camps due to a gap in funding. The WASH cluster is working to mobilize resources to address this gap.
- Travel restrictions are still being imposed on humanitarian actors due to insecurity in Monekoe sub-township of Muse township, and due to COVID-19 restrictions in Kongyan township in northern Shan, the border areas between northern and southern Shan, and the border areas of southern Shan and Kayah states.

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