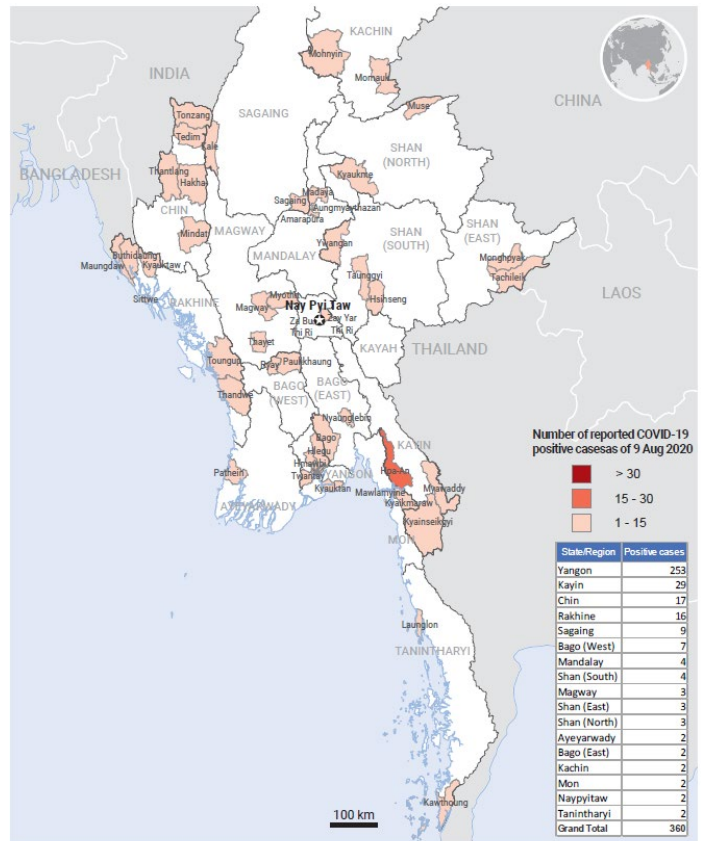


This report is produced by OCHA Myanmar covering the period of 30 July – 10 August, in collaboration with Inter-Cluster Coordination Group and wider humanitarian partners. The next report will be issued on or around 4 September.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **The number of confirmed COVID-19 cases across the country remains low** - a total of 360 cases, six fatalities and 312 recoveries so far - with most new cases reported among returning migrants. No cases have been reported in camps or sites for internally displaced people (IDP).
- **Sixteen COVID-19 cases have been confirmed across Rakhine**, with two local transmissions in Buthidaung and Kyauktaw townships; others have recent travel histories.
- Close to 142,000 **migrant workers** have returned since March, including 97,342 from Thailand, according to the International Organization for Migration (IOM).
- **Six humanitarian flights arrived in Myanmar** during the reporting period, carrying supplies and relief personnel.
- Government has budgeted **2 billion kyat (approximately US\$1,470,318)** for prevention measures against COVID-19 in displacement sites.
- Government and humanitarian actors continue **prevention, response preparedness and response** activities in camps and displacement sites, as well as in quarantine centers.
- **The Addendum to the 2020 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) has been revised**; the HRP now targets 915,000 people, including 60,000 returning migrants, for the period April-December 2020 and financial requirements stand at US\$275.3 million.
- **The 2020 Myanmar HRP is currently 36 per cent funded.** Contributions amount to US\$99 million; 39 per cent of the total funding received (\$23 million) is for activities in the COVID-19 Addendum – **FTS**.



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Creation date: 10 Aug 2020. Sources: Ministry of Health and Sports. Feedback: ocha@myanmar.org | www.unocha.org | www.reliefweb.int

SITUATION OVERVIEW

360

Confirmed cases

6

Deaths

312

Recovered

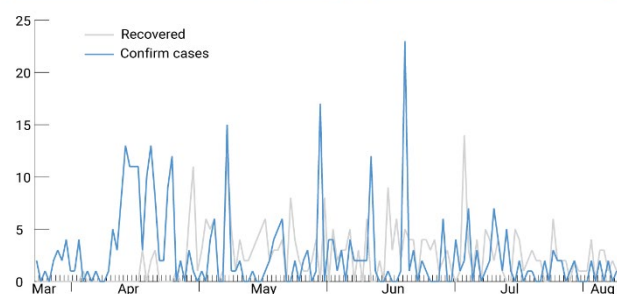
122K

Tests conducted

142K

Returning migrants

EVOLUTION OF CASES (23 Mar - 9 Aug 2020)



TOTAL CASES: There have been 360 confirmed cases, including six fatalities and 312 recoveries across the country so far. The rate of reported local transmission has been low, with none since 17 July. Most cases have been confirmed among people returning from abroad, including migrant workers. The Ministry of Health and Sports (MoHS) confirmed 23 cases on 19 June – the highest reported in a single day so far – among returning migrants. While no cases were reported in camps or displacement sites, MoHS reported 16 cases in six townships of Rakhine State, including two local transmissions. All persons had recovered.

TESTING CAPACITY: Currently, five laboratories are operational, including National Health Laboratory, Department of Medical Research, and No.1 Defense Service General Hospital in Yangon as well as Public Health laboratories in Mandalay and Mawlamyine, in addition to the two laboratories in Nay Pyi Taw and eastern Shan, operated by the Myanmar Armed Forces. A new COVID-19 laboratory will be operational in the first half of August in Taunggyi of Shan State, with a capacity to test 300 specimens per day. The construction of a COVID-19 testing facility in Lashio, northern Shan, has been delayed due to lack of funds. The five laboratories test between 1,100 and 2,000 specimens per day. A total of 125,872 tests had been conducted as of 9 August. The total number of people who have been tested is not available, but over 6,900 “persons under investigation” have been tested so far.

RETURN OF MIGRANT WORKERS: Returns continued to be reported, mainly from Thailand, through the land border gates. A total of 141,710 migrant workers returned between 22 March and 5 August, according to IOM. Of these, 97,342 returned from Thailand, 44,051 from China and around 320 from Laos. In addition, close to 9,500 Myanmar nationals who had been stranded in other countries due to travel restrictions, have returned by relief flights organized by the Myanmar Government since 8 April.

As of 5 August, close to 3,000 quarantine facilities were operational across the country, hosting over 19,000 returnees at the time of reporting. In Rakhine State, a total of 1,430 people were in 244 community quarantine facilities and more than 720 under were in home quarantine, according to the local authorities in Rakhine. In other conflict-affected areas, close to 360 facilities host nearly 1,100 people in Shan, 430 facilities host around 525 people in Kachin, and nearly 360 facilities host over 2,340 people in Kayin states.

NORTHERN RAKHINE: In Maungdaw Township, cross-border trade has been suspended since 4 July, following an increase in cases of people having travelled to Bangladesh testing positive, including two boatmen who returned to northern Rakhine on 3 July with commodities from Bangladesh. Courts in northern Rakhine have jailed some 23 people for a six-month term under the 1947 Burma Immigration Act for illegal entry for returning from Bangladesh following the official suspension of cross-border movement due to COVID-19.

IMPACT ON BUSINESSES: A survey by the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization indicated that COVID-19 has affected nearly 76 per cent of export businesses in Myanmar, hitting tourism and manufacturing industries hardest, while over 50 per cent of Myanmar’s companies faced reduced demand from global buyers. Over 1,500 small-scale weaving businesses in Chin State and Sagaing Region have been affected by the Myanmar-India border closure, as trade of raw materials stopped. Meanwhile, some 160 factories and workplaces in Yangon Region remained closed, with workers being laid off or suspended. Myanmar’s earnings from exports to China dropped by more than US\$200 million in the first 10 months of the current fiscal year (2019-2020) compared with the same period in the previous fiscal year (2018-2019), according to the Ministry of Commerce. The Government has disbursed loans to nearly 3,400 vulnerable businesses hit by COVID-19 so far, providing over 100 billion kyat (approximately US\$72.2 million) since April.

PREVENTION AND RESPONSE

GOVERNMENT PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE: Since the pandemic, the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement (MoSWRR) has been providing hygiene items and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and undertaking Risk Communication and Community Engagement activities (RCCE) in displacement sites and IDP camps across the country. Between 27 March to 19 July, MoSWRR provided over 84,630 hand sanitizers, close to 260,000 soap bars, over 311,000 cloth masks, some 18,000 surgical masks, 360 face shields, nearly 600 washbasins and 370 thermometers and conducted RCCE activities in around 400 IDP camps/sites in Chin, Kachin, Kayin, Rakhine and Shan states. On 15 July, a discussion during a parliamentary session indicated that the Department of Disaster Management (DDM) MoSWRR received 2 billion kyat (approximately US\$1,470,318) for prevention measures against COVID-19 in displacement sites.

PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE BY HUMANITARIAN PARTNERS: While sustaining life-saving humanitarian operations, humanitarian organizations continue COVID-19 prevention and response measures for vulnerable communities and returning migrants in coordination with the government and State-level authorities. Ongoing and planned COVID-19 activities in IDP camps and camp-like settings by cluster are summarized below. A more detailed account of activities, including RCCE, can be found in Annex 1.

Health

- **Across all conflict-affected areas**, health partners continued their regular RCCE activities and supported MoHS and Ethnic Community-based Health Organizations in distributing PPE, gloves, infrared thermometers, surgical masks, N95 masks, goggles, gowns, hand sanitizers and soap, chlorine and bleaching powders, pamphlets and posters. In **Kachin, Rakhine and northern Shan** in particular, partners provided capacity building, psychosocial support, laboratory samples transportation, referral of suspected cases and facilitated the operational costs of quarantine centers. In **Rakhine**, partners also provided support at Thet Kel Pyin hospital with medical supplies and equipment, capacity building and case management. Partners also provided financial support for disease surveillance at points of entry/quarantine facilities in **Kayin State**.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

- In **Rakhine**, cluster partners distributed around 49,300 soap bars, installed 8,770 hand sanitizer units and nine handwashing stations and distributed Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials to different locations, including IDP sites, schools, villages and health care facilities. In addition, partners reached 58,300 people through COVID-19-related hygiene promotion and awareness sessions. In **Chin State**, the cluster partners set up about 320 handwashing stations and distributed soap bars to health care facilities in eight townships. In **Kachin**, partners distributed 18,800 hygiene items and COVID-19-related IEC materials in nine IDP camps. In **Kayin**, UNICEF set up nearly 80 handwashing stations in quarantine centers in three townships.

Protection

- In **Rakhine and northern Shan**, sector partners facilitated Gender-Based Violence (GBV) case management and continued to provide small-scale psycho-social support, while in **Rakhine**, they distributed IEC material, including audio messaging, in both Rakhine and Rohingya languages. In addition, the Community and Family Service International (CFSI) helpline has been functional since the end of May. Sector partners in Rakhine have distributed 1,100 dignity kits to women and girls in quarantine centers and displacement sites, including COVID-19-related hygiene items. Additionally, sessions on COVID-19-related stress were conducted in nearly 60 households. Sector partners have also provided psychosocial support and activities for more than 20 at-risk parents and 80 children. In **northern Shan** specifically, partners distributed 490 mini-dignity kits to women and girls in quarantine centers. In **Kachin**, partners worked with the Department of Social Welfare (DSW) to distribute more than 10,000 dignity kits to women in IDP camps. A total of 7,600 masks produced as part of psycho-social support activities by women and girls were distributed in camps.

Food Security

- WFP and partners continued food distributions to IDPs and crisis-affected people in **Rakhine, Kachin, northern Shan and Chin states**. In **Rakhine**, partners provided agricultural farming inputs, cash and COVID-19 hygiene items to 6,000 vulnerable families. In **Chin**, partners distributed food to 4,300 IDPs in Paletwa Township with the support of the Chin State Government. At the request of the Government, partners provided food assistance for 55,100 returning migrants in quarantine sites in Kachin, Kayin, Mon and Shan states, as well as Ayeyarwady, Bago, Magway, Sagaing, Tanintharyi and Yangon regions.
- **On response to the needs of returning migrants, in Kayin**, cluster partners supported 56,100 returning migrants with a one-time meal box at the Myawaddy border gate and provided food assistance to 20,300

returning migrants in facility quarantine centers of Hpa-an and Myawaddy towns. In **Shan**, food commodities reached 400 returning migrants in quarantine centers in Loilen Township.

Nutrition

- Essential nutrition services continued in **Rakhine** and MoHS and partners will provide further micronutrient powder supplements to 5,800 children in IDP camps. Partners provided supplies to Sittwe and Pauktaw hospitals for treatment of severe acute malnutrition cases, and supported coordination and referral of such cases in Pauktaw Township. In **Kachin**, MoHS and partners distributed micronutrient powder and deworming tablets, while UNICEF provided Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition (IMAM) supplies and anthropometric equipment for program implementation in Puta-O, Mohnyin and Banmaw hospitals. In **northern Shan**, screening and referral of children with severe acute malnutrition continued, while partners resumed their growth monitoring and promotion, as well as micronutrient supplementation activities in the Wa Self-Administered Division. In **Kayin and Chin**, health facilities received anthropometric equipment, in preparation for the roll-out of IMAM activities. Further, MoHS, in coordination with nutrition sector partners, continued IMAM, Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) counselling services in Samee and Paletwa IDP camps in Chin.

Education in Emergencies

- Partners are currently reviewing the Guidelines for COVID-19 Prevention, developed by Ministry of Education (MoE) and MoHS, and coordinating with WASH cluster partners ahead of re-opening of temporary learning spaces, particularly in IDP camps in central Rakhine. Further, partners are procuring and distributing learning materials for use at home, estimated to reach 40,000 children. Partners are also working with MoE to prepare volunteer teachers for the inclusion in the new basic education curriculum, following the Guidelines on COVID-19 prevention.

Shelter, Non-Food Items, Camp Coordination and Camp Management

- In Rakhine, the partners distributed RCCE materials in camps, displacement sites and villages. In **northern Shan**, partners continued the delivery of key messaging, awareness raising and remote monitoring of ongoing programmes. In **Kayin**, most of the shelter implementation activities that were suspended earlier are expected to resume in August, with preventive measure to be considered to lower the risk of spread of COVID-19.

OPERATIONAL CHALLENGES

A number of challenges continue to delay humanitarian operations carried out by the sector partners in all conflict-affected areas, and/or areas where migrant returnees are hosted in quarantine facilities. The following operational challenges reportedly remain unchanged:

- Additional security clearance requirements
- Ongoing insecurity
- Telecommunication challenge
- Access/movement restrictions
- Closure of markets
- Stock shortage and limited supplies
- Increased material cost
- Logistic constraints
- Unclear bureaucratic process
- Restrictions on border crossing
- Natural hazards

UPDATE ON IMPACT ON ONGOING OPERATIONS



- In **Kachin, Kayin and northern Shan**, GBV prevention and other group activities have been able to resume in a limited capacity, due to the relaxation of COVID-19-related prevention measures. In **northern Shan**, Child Protection Working Group (CPWG) partners have resumed their activities and field visits. In **Rakhine**, partners have been unable to maintain the frequency of oversight visits, resulting in higher counts of protection incidents. In addition, sector partners

report difficulties in case management follow-ups. Some of the Women and Girls (WGC) Centers had to be temporarily closed due to security concerns. Child Protection partners re-adjusted the mode of delivery of services to online remote case management and interventions.



WASH

- In **Rakhine**, regular communication with camp staff is ongoing and many WASH partners are working remotely. There are continued challenges in reaching many IDPs due to rejections of Travel Authorizations, especially in rural areas. In **Chin**, WASH activities have been able to incorporate COVID-19 responses into regular programming, without significant impact in the locations that are reachable.

FOOD
SECURITY

- **Countrywide**, WFP and partners have been providing two months' food and/or cash distributions in most areas and three months' distributions in remote areas, to minimize contacts and transmission of COVID-19. In Kachin, WFP increased ration size from 70 to 100 per cent for two months for IDPs earlier identified as less vulnerable to COVID-19-related restrictions. FAO delayed their cash-for-work intervention and adapted the program to be COVID-19-sensitive.



HEALTH

- In **Kachin, Rakhine and northern Shan**, frequency of mobile clinics and routine services in operation areas is reduced. In **Chin and Kayin**, implementation of some activities was modified to observe public health infection prevention and control measures.



NUTRITION

- Nutrition partners suspended their activities in **Kayin and Kachin**, due to COVID-19-related movement restrictions. At the same time, sector partners and MoHS staff have been able to gradually resume their response in **Rakhine, northern Shan and Chin**, while following the necessary COVID-19 prevention measures. In **Rakhine**, essential nutrition services are provided through community volunteers in conflict-affected areas, where partners' movements are restricted.

SHELTER,
NFI/CCCM

- Most of the shelter activities in Kachin and northern Shan have been postponed, whereas camp coordination and camp management/site monitoring are being carried out remotely. Partners received fewer travel authorization approvals due to a change in government policy.

PLANNING, RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

COVID-19 Addendum to 2020 HRP: The COVID-19 Addendum to the Myanmar 2020 HRP has been **revised** to cover the humanitarian response from April to the end of 2020, extending it for six months beyond the initial April–June period. Financial requirements have increased by US\$13 million, bringing the 2020 Myanmar HRP requirements to \$275.3 million, from \$262.3 million. The HRP now targets 915,000 people, including 60,000 returning migrants. The Myanmar revision fed into the **revised** Global Humanitarian Response Plan launched in July.

Myanmar Humanitarian Fund (MHF): The selection process for the first Standard allocation is ongoing. The amount of the Standard allocation will be approximately US\$7.2 million and will support coordinated humanitarian assistance and protection response in Chin, Rakhine, Kachin and Shan states. The allocation will not include stand-alone COVID-19 interventions, which were already supported through a US\$3.8 million Reserve Allocation in April. COVID-19-related actions are now being mainstreamed throughout programming.

2020 HRP Funding Update: The 2020 Myanmar HRP is currently 36 per cent funded. Of the total contributions of US\$99 million, \$23 million or 39 per cent of total funding received have been contributions to the COVID-19 Addendum, according to the **Financial Tracking Service**. Current levels of funding are below those reported at mid-year in recent years and donors are encouraged to sustain and strengthen their support.

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For more information, please visit www.unocha.org | <https://reliefweb.int/country/mmr> | <https://www.facebook.com/OCHAMyanmar/>

MYANMAR

Number of COVID-19 positive cases per Township

As of 9 August 2020

