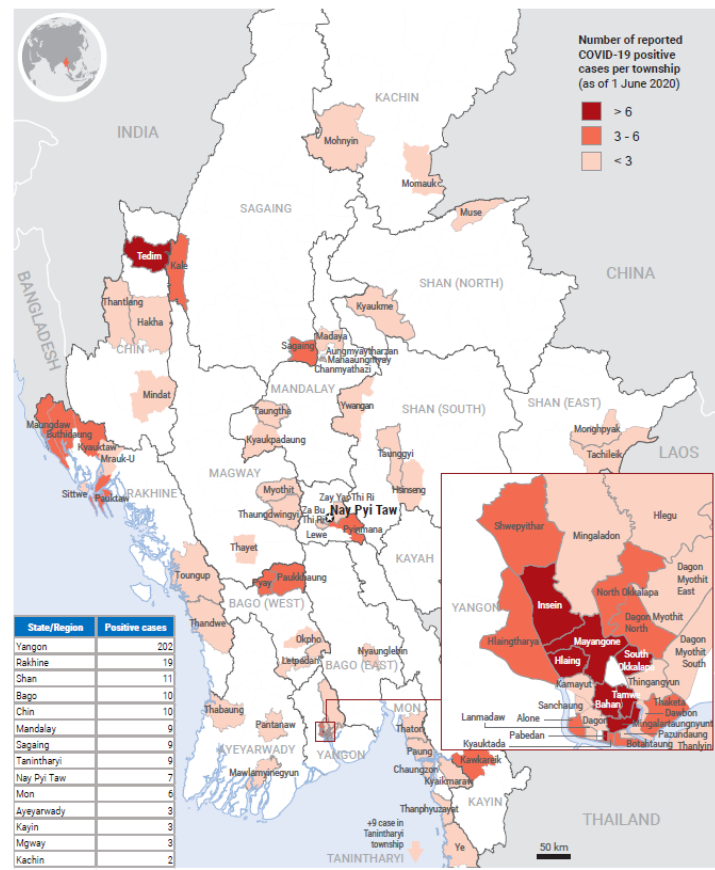


This report is produced by OCHA Myanmar covering the period of 1 -29 June, in collaboration with Inter-Cluster Coordination Group, the Maungdaw Inter Agency Group and wider humanitarian partners.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- **Twelve cases confirmed in Rakhine State** with one local transmission from a known contact in Buthidaung Township and eight among people with travel history in Bangladesh.
- **Limited local transmission** with majority of cases confirmed among returning migrants. **No cases have been reported in camps for internally displaced people (IDP) or displacement sites.** A total of 293 cases, six fatalities and 215 recoveries have been confirmed across the country.
- **More than 111,600 migrant workers have returned**, including 71,735 from Thailand since March, per the International Organization for Migration (IOM).
- **Four humanitarian flights arrived in Myanmar** in June, carrying sets of protective items, medical supplies as well as humanitarian and relief personnel.
- **Nearly 1,000 schools in conflict-affected areas** used as **quarantine facilities are disinfected and being prepared for classes** as Government plans to reopen schools in mid-July.
- Preparedness and response activities across camps and displacement sites, as well as in quarantine centers, continue by government and humanitarian actors.
- The Addendum to the 2020 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) has been revised, **with a total of 915,000 people targeted and financial requirements of US\$275.3 million.**
- **A total of US\$54 million has been contributed to the 2020 HRP**, including \$15 million to the COVID-19 Addendum— FTS.



### SITUATION OVERVIEW

299

Confirmed cases

6

Deaths

218

Recovered

75K

Tests conducted

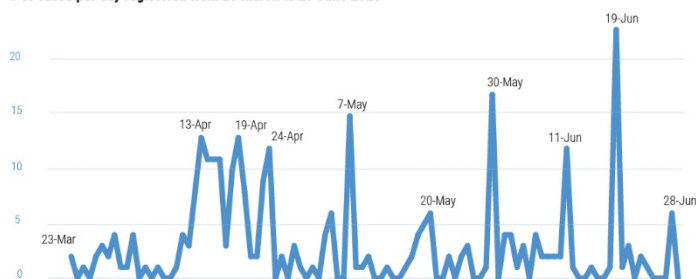
111.6K

Returning migrants



#### COVID-19 CONFIRMED CASES IN MYANMAR

# of cases per day registered from 23 March to 29 June 2020



**TOTAL CASES:** There have been 299 confirmed cases, including six fatalities and 218 recoveries across the country. The rate of local transmission has been low so far with cases confirmed mainly among people returning from abroad. The Ministry of Health and Sports (MoHS) confirmed 23 cases on 19 June – the highest reported in a single day so far – among the returning migrants. While no cases were reported in camps or displacement sites, MoHS have reported 12 cases in five townships of Rakhine State, including one local transmission from a known contact and the rest with recent travel history.

**TESTING CAPACITY:** Currently, five laboratories (National Health Laboratory and Department of Medical Research in Yangon; Public Health Laboratory in Mandalay and Mawlamyine, and No.1 Defense Service General Hospital in Yangon) are actively testing specimens for COVID-19, in addition to two laboratories in Nay Pyi Taw and eastern Shan, operated by the Myanmar Armed Forces. A new COVID-19 laboratory in Taunggyi of southern Shan, which has a capacity of testing 300 specimens per 24 hours, will be operational in the first week of July. The five laboratories test between 1,100 and 2,000 specimens per day, and a total of 74,978 tests have been conducted as of 29 June. Close to 6,000 “persons under investigation” have been tested so far, and a total number of people who have been tested is not available.

**RETURN OF MIGRANT WORKERS:** Returns continued to be reported, mainly from Thailand through the land border gates. More than 111,600 migrant workers returned between 22 March and 23 June, according to IOM. Of these, 71,735 returned from Thailand, 39,760 from China and 131 from Laos. In addition, close to 5,750 Myanmar nationals, who had been stranded in other countries due to travel restrictions, have returned by the government-assisted relief flights between 8 April and 23 June.

Close to 6,840 quarantine facilities were operational across the country, hosting close to 33,860 returnees, as of 24 June. In Rakhine State, a total of 2,030 people in 469 community quarantine facilities, more than 3,933 under home quarantine and a further 78 in hospitals were reported, according to the Government COVID-19 Watch team in Rakhine. In other conflict-affected areas, close 380 facilities host nearly 1,800 people in Shan, over 400 facilities host some 2,350 people in Kachin, and over 770 facilities host over 3,270 people in Kayin.

RETURNS FROM THAILAND	RETURNS FROM CHINA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Thai authorities have extended visa extensions until 31 July for about one million migrant workers from its neighboring countries, including Myanmar, to ease potential labour shortages as the country’s economy reopens.</li> <li>- Migrants from Thailand returned to different states and regions across Myanmar, with the highest number of returns reported in Bago Region (7,819 people), followed by returns of some 3,800 to Magway.</li> <li>- Re-migration to Thailand may also occur at the end of June. So far, over 65,600 migrants remain interested to return to Thailand once the border and key industries reopen.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A total of 39,760 migrants returned from China between 16 April and 23 June through Kachin and Shan states.</li> <li>- The returns were mainly facilitated through border gates in Kan Paik Ti and Lwegel towns of Kachin, and Muse, Chinshwehaw, Laukkaing and Mongla towns of Shan State.</li> <li>- Muse’s Nan Taw border gate recorded the highest number of returns, with over 14,200 people, followed by crossing of 11,660 people through Chinshwehaw gate and over 10,400 crossings through the Lwegel gate of Kachin.</li> </ul>

**IMPACT ON LIVELIHOODS:** GDP growth is projected to drop from 6.8 per cent in 2018-2019 fiscal year to 0.5 per cent in 2019-2020, according to the World Bank’s [Myanmar Economic Monitor](#). The impact is likely to be felt across manufacturing, trade, domestic services, food security, nutrition, livelihood opportunities, agricultural marketing, food prices, access to education, as well as other socio-economic areas. Casual laborers, including the migrant returnees, have been struggling to obtain jobs while movement restrictions have limited access to livelihoods, including in and around displacement sites.

In June, the FAO and WFP conducted a rapid assessment of COVID-19’s impact on livelihoods, food security, food supply chains, prices and agricultural inputs flow. The assessment targeted 2,100 households, 250 retailers and 130 agriculture inputs traders in seven states and regions (Yangon region, Chin, Kayin, Mon, Shan, Kachin and Rakhine states). About 50 per cent of the respondents stated that their income decreased between 20 to 50 per cent in the past 30 days compared to the same period in 2019.

Rakhine State will likely be impacted, especially after the confirmed cases in Maungdaw and Buthidaung townships. Price spikes, economic instability and fear as the pandemic spreads could also increase levels of social tension.

Movement restrictions associated with the COVID-19 pandemic could derail agricultural input supply chains at critical times in the season, reduce informal labourers' access to farmlands and therefore both their wages and the area of land cultivated, and constrain transport of goods to processing facilities and or markets.

## PREVENTION AND RESPONSE

**GOVERNMENT PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE:** Between 27 March and 20 June, the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement (MoSWRR), in collaboration with relevant authorities and national and international partners, distributed some 140,000 soap bars/bottles, around 70,000 bottles of hand sanitizers, 110,000 surgical masks, 232,000 cloth masks, 460 washbasins, 300 thermometers, 2,300 bags of lime powder, 170 vinyl posters, 165 megaphones and 165 flash drives in camps or displacement sites in Chin, Kachin, Kayin, Rakhine and Shan states. In addition, MoSWRR has started providing 30,000 Myanmar kyats each to over 441,700 women and elderly people in most vulnerable areas, including IDP camps in Rakhine, Chin, Kayin, Kachin and Shan states.

**COORDINATION WITH ETHNIC ARMED ORGANIZATIONS:** The government's Committee for Coordination and Cooperation with Ethnic Armed Organizations (EAOs) for Prevention, Control and Treatment of COVID-19 continues online meetings with EAOs. On 16 June, the Committee held an online meeting with the Restoration Council of Shan State (RCSS). The RCSS stated they conducted scanning body temperatures of 60,000 people in 30 areas and continue to coordinate COVID-19 prevention and response, including among returnees.

**PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE BY HUMANITARIAN PARTNERS:** While sustaining life-saving humanitarian operations, humanitarian organizations continue to ramp up COVID-19 prevention and response measures for the vulnerable communities and returning migrants through continued coordination with the government and relevant authorities. Find below the summary of ongoing/planned COVID-19 response in camps and camp-like settings by clusters. Broader efforts, including risk communication and community engagement (RCCE) are in Annex Table 1.

### Health

- **Across all conflict-affected states**, the health partners continue RCCE activities and provide capacity building, psychosocial support, laboratory samples transportation, referral of suspected cases and facilitate operational costs to quarantine centers. In addition, the partners supported the MoHS and ethnic health organizations with provision of Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs), gloves, infrared thermometers, surgical masks, N95 masks, goggles, gowns, hand sanitizers, soaps, chlorine powder and bleaching powder, pamphlets and posters. The partners also provided financial support for disease surveillance at points of entry and quarantine centers in Kayin State.

### Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

- **In Rakhine**, partners distributed over 16,000 soap bars, 116,200 hand sanitizer units and 130 washbasins to 14 Rohingya IDP camps in three townships, as well as over 35,670 soap bars, 6,300 hand sanitizer items and 45 washbasins to around 35 IDP sites, 20 public areas, 2 schools and 90 villages in eight townships, benefiting close to 175,000 individuals. **In Chin**, the partners set up around 700 handwashing stations and distributed 650 soap bars Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials to support nearly 115,800 individuals at different locations, including IDP camps and quarantine facilities, in eight townships. **In Kachin**, sector partners set up handwashing stations and provided hygiene items, water bottles and IEC materials to nearly 82,400 people in 45 IDP camps, 220 quarantine facilities and 190 villages in 18 townships, as of 20 June. **In northern Shan**, the partners established around 350 handwashing stations and provided 690 soap bars to 64,350 individuals, including IDPs and quarantined people. **In Kayin**, partners set up around 300 handwashing facilities, and provided 14,700 soap bars to 69,300 people in several townships.

### Protection

- **In Rakhine**, the Communication with Communities (CwC) Working Group developed new IEC material on how to safely wear cloth masks, including audio messaging in both Rakhine and Rohingya languages.

Community and Family Service International (CFSI) referral hotline for northern Rakhine has been functional since end of May. The protection partners conducted two safe migration trainings for child protection partners in mid-June. **In Kachin**, a new protection monitoring system was rolled out, allowing partners to record protection issues and track follow in a more systematic way. Partners have also set up a legal assistance hotline to provide remote consultations for IDPs. **In northern Shan**, protection monitoring continues remotely through phone calls with protection focal points in camps. A monitoring tool was rolled out to measure the effectiveness of COVID-19-related RCCE in camps. At the national level, an online training on Gender-Based Violence (GBV) was conducted for 30 participants from the Global Fund partner organizations. Similar trainings on psychosocial support and GBV were organized for 200 midwives and nurses, and 35 teachers and instructors from nurse and midwifery schools.

- **In Kayin**, partners provided some 3,500 dignity kits to the Department of Social Welfare (DSW) for returning migrants at quarantine centers. In addition, some 6,600 flyers on GBV/Mental Health and Psychological Support (MHPS)/Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR)/Protection against sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA) and COVID-19 messages were distributed to DSW and GBV partners for further distribution at the community level.

### Food Security

- WFP and partners continued food distribution to IDPs and crisis-affected people in **Rakhine, Kachin, northern Shan and Chin states**. In addition, upon the request of the Government, WFP and partners provided food assistance for 55,000 returning migrants in and/or in transit to quarantine sites in Kachin, Kayin, Mon and Shan states as well as Bago, Magway, Tanitharyi and Yangon regions. **In Chin**, partners distributed food to 3,335 new IDPs for one month in Samee town of Paletwa Township with support of the Chin State Government. DSW provided cash assistance (30,000 kyat per person) for 2,084 pregnant and lactating mothers and children under two at IDP camps with support of the sector partners. **In Kayin**, the cluster partners supported 31,200 returning migrants with one-time meal box at Myawaddy boarder gate, and WFP supported 13,500 returning migrants in quarantine facilities of Hpa-an and Myawaddy towns.

### Nutrition

- Essential nutrition services continue **in Rakhine**, while minimal nutrition services remain **in Kachin**. Partners **in Rakhine** supported health department for biannual deworming campaign jointly with measles and polio immunization activities. **In northern Shan**, screening and referral of children with severe acute malnutrition with complication are continuously provided. **In Chin**, micronutrient supplements such as vitamin A, thiamine and micronutrient tablet from national nutrient center will be distributed to children and pregnant and lactating women in Samee IDP camps of Paletwa Township. Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) counselling, Integrated Management of Acute Malnutrition (IMAM) and Social Behaviour Change Communication (SBCC) program interventions have resumed in communities.

### Education

- **In Kachin, Kayin and Shan states**, the partners continue to provide hygiene materials and masks, in addition to learning materials, for over 9,000 students. In addition, the partners plan to provide learning materials for students to study at home during extended school closures, as risk of disrupted learning and school dropouts are increasing. Nearly 1,000 schools in conflict-affected areas were used as quarantine facilities and now are turning back to classrooms as the Government prepares to reopen schools in mid-July.

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

- **In Rakhine**, the shelter partners adopted a guidance note on COVID-19 sensitive construction, together with WASH and EIE partners. CCCM partners continue to deliver RCCE in displacement sites in line with the CwC working group guidance. The partners provided shelter and bed materials, as well as masks and cash for IDP camps and quarantine facilities **in Kachin and northern Shan**.

## Logistics

- Four humanitarian flights arrived in Myanmar in June. On 9 and 10 June, UNICEF's two special flights carrying sets of PPE items and other medical supplies each worth close to US\$432,000 and over \$334,300 arrived at the Yangon International Airport. On 14 and 29 June, WFP's special flights brought WHO medical supplies, laboratory equipment and experts to support Myanmar in a fight against COVID-19 arrived in Myanmar.

## MAUNGDAW INTER AGENCY GROUP

- Maungdaw Inter Agency Group (MIAG) continued to coordinate with partners in support of the government's COVID-19 response in northern Rakhine, including non-food items (sleeping mats, mosquito nets, hygiene/dignity kits, etc.) to quarantine facilities in Maungdaw and Buthidaung townships, at the request of the Government.
- Humanitarian partners continue extensive COVID-19 prevention activities - including distribution of hygiene items, megaphones and masks, installation of washbasins and conducting community-based awareness raising. UNHCR and UNFPA continue to participate in the Task Team on COVID-19 for Rakhine State on behalf of MIAG, to ensure a synergy and information sharing for the overall response.
- In Maungdaw Township, a humanitarian partner visited the Hla Phoe Kaung transit center, which has now been converted into a quarantine facility, following the first confirmed cases in this Township. The partner provided initial emergency support interventions to the center, including food distribution, and is planning to provide healthcare support, WASH and undertake protection activities. Further technical and material support would be needed in the quarantine center, as well as in the Maungdaw District Hospital, where the confirmed cases are currently isolated and treated.

## 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 requirement | • Closure of markets                  | • Unclear bureaucratic process    |
| • Insecurity                                | • Stock shortage and limited supplies | • Restrictions on border crossing |
| • Telecommunication challenge               | • Increased material cost             | • Lack of transportation support  |
| • Access/movement restrictions              | • Logistic constraints                |                                   |

## IMPACT ON ONGOING HUMANITARIAN OPERATIONS



- **In Kachin**, protection monitoring continues to be undertaken remotely through community focal points. Given the temporary movement of IDPs from the camps to villages of origin, protection monitoring through partners is being conducted in areas of high returns. Large scale GBV prevention activities are suspended. Only lifesaving interventions are available. Some IDPs left camps in fear of COVID-19 transmission and livelihood opportunities. **In Rakhine**, large-scale GBV prevention activities are reduced, while **in Shan (north)**, GBV prevention activities and large-scale awareness/outreach sessions are suspended as per control measures. Further **in Chin**, monitoring activities have been scaled down, with focus on Samee Town where access is possible.



- **In Kachin**, cluster partners re-adjusted ongoing programmes in community quarantine facilities in GCAs and NGCAs as well as the China-Myanmar border entry point in order to identify the criticality of existing program to prioritize activities. Most activities are suspended until further notice. **In Rakhine**, only life-saving programs in camps and host villages are sustained. Regular communication with camp staff is on-going, and many WASH partners are working remotely.



EDUCATION

FOOD  
SECURITY

HEALTH



NUTRITION

SHELTER,  
NFI/CCCM

- Nearly 1,000 schools in operation areas were used as quarantine facilities and will be used as classrooms again when schools reopen in mid-July. The risk of disrupted learning and school dropouts increases during extended school closures.
- **Countrywide**, WFP and partners have been distributing two months' food and/ or cash distribution in most of the areas and three months distribution in remote areas, to minimize contacts and transmission of coronavirus. **In Kayin**, agreement with partners has to extend for more months, due to expected returning rate.
- **In Kachin, Rakhine and Shan (north)**, intensity of mobile clinics and routine services in operation areas is reduced. **In Chin and Kayin**, implementation of some activities is modified to observe public health infection prevention and control measures.
- **In Kachin**, community nutrition activities, such as cooking demonstrations and nutrition awareness sessions have been suspended, which will have an adverse impact on the nutritional status of children if this continues for more than three months. **In Rakhine**, modifications of treatment and management of acute malnutrition were adjusted to be done only by critical staff, due to COVID-19 preventive measures. **In Shan (north)**, most nutrition activities have been postponed, including technical support for nutrition related training for Township Health Department. **In Chin**, routine interventions have been suspended. Routine nutrition intervention like rapid nutrition screening, IYCF awareness to mother support group members could not conduct since 1 April. **In Kayin**, the planned community nutrition activities in Hlaingbwe and Hpapun are on hold.
- Most of the shelter activities in conflict-affected states have been postponed, whereas camp coordination and camp management/site monitoring is being carried out remotely. Partners receive fewer travel authorization approvals due to a change in government policy.

## PLANNING, RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

**COVID-19 Addendum to 2020 HRP:** The Addendum to the 2020 HRP has been revised, with a revised total caseload of 915,000 people, including an increase in caseload of returning migrants by 10,000, and increase in financial requirement of US\$13 million (\$275.3 million total increase from \$262.3 million in the previous iteration). This increase also covers response activities until the end of 2020, extending it for six months from the initially planned April – June period.

**Myanmar Humanitarian Fund (MHF):** A standard allocation is under development, following the completion of a US\$3.8 million reserve allocation focused on COVID-19 activities. The amount of the standard allocation will depend on available funds, but is expected to be approximately US\$7 million.

**2020 HRP Funding Update:** The Myanmar 2020 HRP is 20.6 per cent funded (US\$54 million), with \$15 million contributions to the COVID-19 Addendum or 32 per cent of total funding received, according to the [Financial Tracking Service](#). Current levels of funding are below what was reported at the mid-year point in recent years and sustained and strengthened donor support is urgently required.

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