



**MYANMAR HUMANITARIAN NEEDS  
AND RESPONSE PLAN 2024**  
**ADDENDUM**

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# 1. Overview & Key Messages

## Key Messages

- Escalating conflict across Myanmar is driving growing humanitarian needs, surging displacement, worsening food insecurity, grave human rights violations and deadly protection threats to civilians.
- The country is now littered with landmines and unexploded ordnance from the daily aerial bombardment that is being inflicted on communities in contested areas.
- Aid workers have proven their resilience in finding ways to overcome the heavy access blockages being imposed on their work. They have shown they are able to deliver, even in the most conflict-affected parts of the country through strong partnerships with local responders.
- Humanitarians reached 3.2 million people in 2023 and already in 2024, almost 950,000 people have received life-saving assistance in all corners of the country and under different areas of control.
- But this is not enough. Partners have capacity to do more but for this they require more resources and expanded humanitarian diplomacy with all parties and with Myanmar's neighbours to secure facilitated access at-scale.
- The Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan is just 12 per cent funded almost half-way into the year.
- Without an urgent injection of funds aid agencies will soon be forced to make impossible choices about cuts to planned assistance that will risk the lives of millions of people in severe need.

Almost half-way through 2024, Myanmar faces a worsening humanitarian crisis characterized by escalating armed conflict, massive displacement, grave human rights violations and significant protection risks for its civilian population. After finalization of the 2024 Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan (HNRP) and related planning figures, the country entered a dangerous new chapter with fighting erupting across large swathes of the country, well beyond the levels expected for 2024. Systematic rights violations, breaches of International Humanitarian Law, denial of access to life-saving services, indiscriminate use of weapons in populated areas, and protection threats, including forced recruitment, have left the population in fear of their lives, with many fleeing for safety. Access to vital services including health and education has been crippled by fighting in the most heavily affected parts of the country where these are needed most. The expansion of fighting since October 2023 and the implementation of a long-standing national conscription law have triggered unforeseen levels of displacement both within the country and across borders. This has brought a new regional dimension to the crisis that demands novel approaches to engagement with Myanmar's neighbours. The total

number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) has surpassed 3 million people as of June, which is equal to the original full-year projected total for 2024.

Brave aid workers have proven their ability to navigate this increasingly complex access landscape with changes in territorial control and are reaching people in need, even in the most conflict affected states and regions. Despite the changes in the operating environment and severe underfunding, humanitarian partners used diverse delivery modalities to reach 949,000 people with at least one kind of support once in the first quarter of the year, including almost 500,000 IDPs. However, expanded delivery and more comprehensive coverage of needs for those people we can reach is being undermined by underfunding and denials of sustained access. Urgent humanitarian diplomacy at the political level is required to reduce the human impact of the conflict and facilitate access to affected people. Humanitarian organizations have the capacity to do more in many parts of the country, but further expansion requires both additional funds and concerted political efforts to create a more conducive operating space for scale-up. More than 4.3m people targeted for support in 2024 had still not been reached



People in need and people targeted for humanitarian assistance by sex, age and disability

	WOMEN AND GIRLS	CHILDREN	ELDERLY	WITH DISABILITIES	REQUIREMENTS (US\$)
<b>PEOPLE IN NEED</b>	<b>52%</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>994M</b>
<b>PEOPLE TARGETED</b>	<b>52%</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>Q1 PEOPLE REACHED 949K</b>

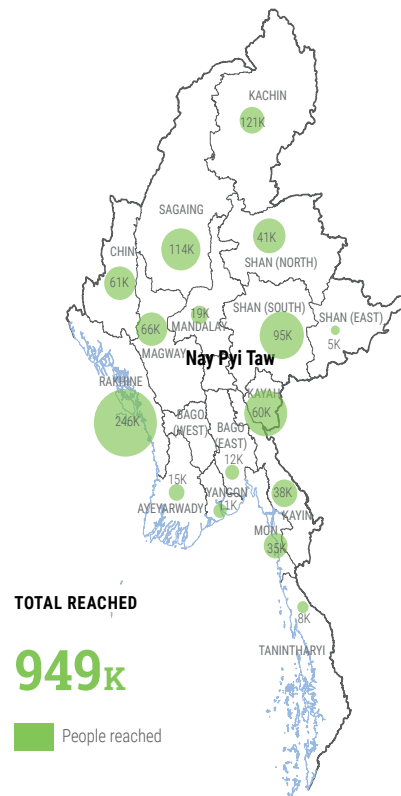
People in need, people targeted for humanitarian assistance, people reached, requirement and funding received by cluster

CLUSTER	PEOPLE IN NEED	PEOPLE TARGETED	PEOPLE REACHED (AS OF 31 MAR 2024)	REQUIREMENT (US\$)	FUNDING RECEIVED (US\$ (AS OF 7 JUN 2024))
Education	4.5M	1.4M	158K 12%	94M	3M 4%
Food Security	13.3M	2.3M	471K 21%	289M	11M 4%
Health	12.1M	2.7M	72K 3%	130M	15M 12%
Nutrition	2.2M	0.6M	114K 18%	58M	1M 1%
Protection	12.2M	3.0M	291K 8%	161M	23M 15%
Shelter/NFI/CCCM	4.3M	1.3M	331K 25%	149M	6M 4%
WASH	5.6M	1.7M	355K 21%	106M	11M 10%
Coordination				7M	2M 29%
Cluster not specified					45M
<b>Total</b>	<b>18.6M</b>	<b>5.3M</b>	<b>949K 18%</b>	<b>994M</b>	<b>117M 12%</b>

with any form of assistance at the end of the first quarter and many will inevitably continue to miss out on support during the remainder of the year if the funding landscape does not improve, with devastating and potentially deadly consequences for vulnerable people. If additional funds were received, partners could immediately use the diverse access channels they have developed over the past three years, including working through local partners, to reach more people in desperate need and help communities prepare for and respond to new needs that will inevitably arise during the wet season.

Field colleagues are sounding the alarm about deteriorating humanitarian needs that have increased in both scale and severity as a result of the escalating fighting that is now also touching many urban areas. This worrying trajectory in needs is currently difficult to quantify due to heavy access constraints, the lack of comprehensive needs assessments in conflict areas, and communications interruptions in many parts of the country, but the reports from frontline responders

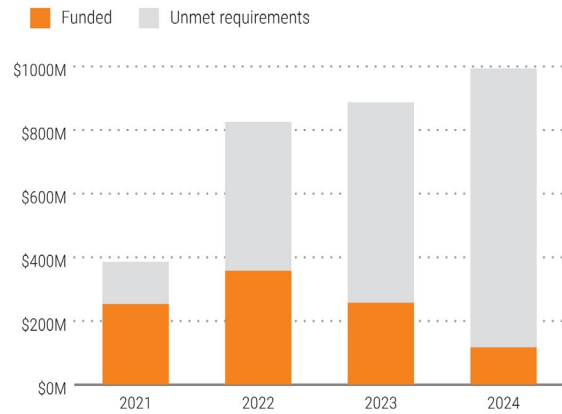
People reached by State/Region (As of 31 Mar 2024)



are unequivocal in their assessment of surging need. Food insecurity is on the rise with 13.3 million people – almost a quarter of the population - now estimated to be in phase 3 or 4 insecurity. This is raising the spectre of deadly malnutrition if unaddressed. The impacts of food insecurity are geographically widespread with all but two States/Regions seeing a deterioration in conditions since April/May 2023. The cyclone and flooding season is now beginning and the impact of another major disaster similar to last year’s Cyclone Mocha would be catastrophic if repeated in the current conflict, access and funding environment. Renewed inter-communal tension in Rakhine is also worrying and requires concerted advocacy with all parties and communication with communities.

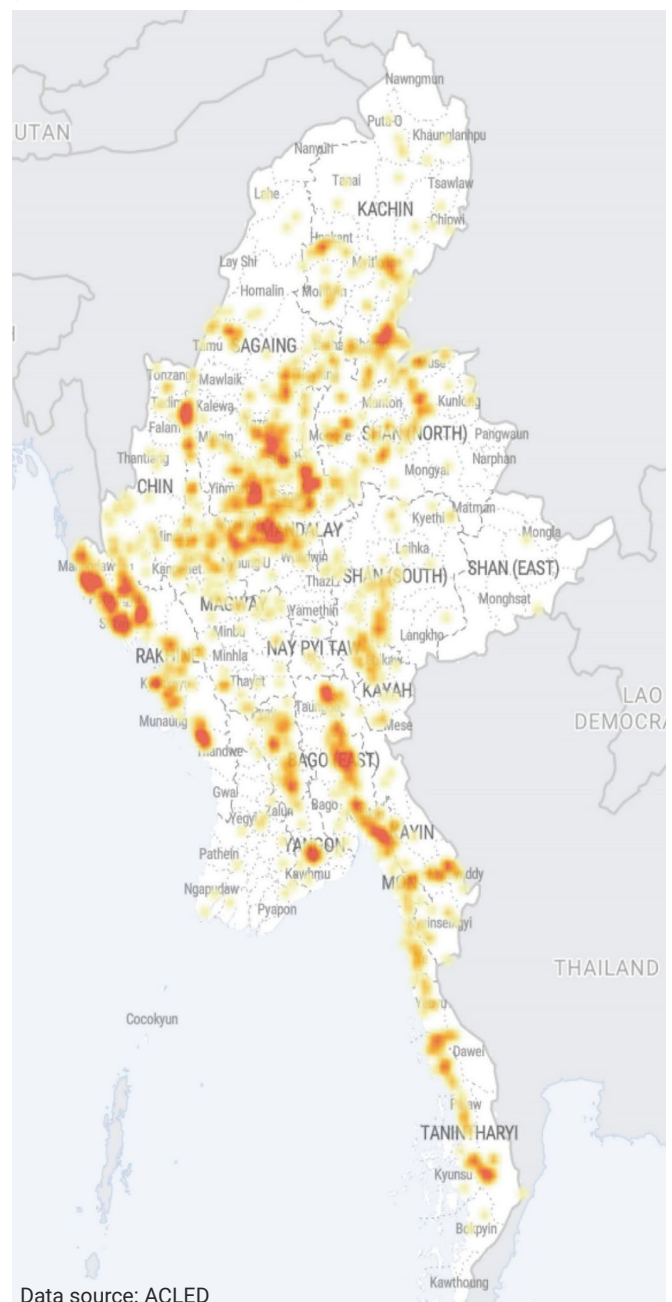
In the absence of comprehensive new data, the Inter-Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG) has focused here on providing an expert narrative analysis of the significant changes in the humanitarian landscape but has not undertaken a full HNRP revision with a new number of people in need (PiN), new targets and new requirements at this time. The ICCG has provided a new estimate of projected displacement through until the end of the year (now 3.6m) and it has been possible for one cluster (Food Security) to update its own sectoral number of people in need based on some newly available analysis, but all other numbers remain unchanged at the inter-sectoral level with at least 18.6 million people in need of humanitarian assistance and 5.3 million targeted for aid. The total financial requirement for this effort is US\$ 994 million, aimed at addressing critical needs across multiple sectors. Currently, just 12 per cent of the required funds have been raised, despite the heavy prioritization and boundary setting exercise done at the end of 2023. Even tighter prioritization lies ahead unless additional funding urgently materializes. While it is understood that some additional funding may be in the pipeline from some key donors, timing is critical, with partners already running low on resources in many areas. Fast-tracking of planned humanitarian funding commitments is now critical to avoid prolonging people’s suffering. Urgent and complementary investment in development activities is also imperative to reverse the unsustainable growth in humanitarian needs.

### HNRP funding trends (US\$)



Data source: FTS as of 7 Jun 2024

### Security incident heatmap (1 Jan 2024 to 15 May 2024)



Data source: ACLED

## 2. Changes in Context

While the original 2024 HNRP did anticipate a continuation or worsening of conflict, the scale and breadth of fighting since November 2023 has exceeded expectations and driven displacement beyond planning projections. The fighting has seen a consolidation of control by Ethnic Armed Organizations (EAOs) particularly in border areas. As anticipated in the HNRP, urban areas have become increasingly affected by the fighting with widespread and indiscriminate use of heavy weapons in population centres posing new protection risks. Implementation of the national conscription law, forced recruitment and widespread explosive ordnance contamination have left civilians deeply afraid for their safety. In 2023, there was a 270 per cent increase in landmine and explosive ordnance-related casualties, with more than 1,000 people killed or injured, 20 per cent of whom were children. This has shown no signs of slowing down in 2024 with new incidents reported every day.

On 31 January 2024, the State Administration Council (SAC) extended the state of emergency for another six months, until the end of July 2024, citing continued instability within the nation. This marks the fifth such extension following the military takeover on 1 February 2021 and keeps the country on a military footing. Martial Law is now in force in 60 townships nationwide. Heavy movement restrictions imposed by the SAC in conflict areas are also impeding the delivery of aid at-scale. All of this is making humanitarian access and aid delivery exponentially more dangerous and complex to negotiate. Humanitarians stand ready to scale-up despite these threats but they need greater financial and diplomatic advocacy support on access to make this happen. Urgent action is needed to secure immediate funding to prevent further reductions in coverage and assistance packages, particularly for newly displaced people in vulnerable situations.

### Conflict dynamics

- **Rakhine:** As we approach mid-year, the humanitarian situation in Rakhine is particularly alarming with fighting intensifying and inter-communal tensions simmering. Fighting since the breakdown of the informal ceasefire between the Arakan Army (AA) and the Myanmar Armed Forces (MAF) in November 2023 has now affected 15 of the 17 townships, with artillery fire and aerial bombardment causing civilian casualties and widespread displacement. In northern Rakhine, the participation of additional armed actors such as the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) has, alongside forced recruitment by the other parties to the conflict, helped further fuel inter-communal tensions.

Although numbers are very difficult to verify in the current environment, almost 500,000 people are now estimated to be displaced in Rakhine, including 290,000 who have been newly displaced since November 2023. The conflict has caused extensive damage to infrastructure, including homes and schools with reports of widespread arson attacks. Access restrictions remain severe despite soaring needs with only limited improvement in Sittwe. Road and waterway closures, coupled with local movement restrictions, have isolated many communities. Communication blackouts in conflict zones are further impeding coordination and timely responses by humanitarian actors, although partners are finding ways to get assistance through, albeit at a lower scale. Elevated prices and banking disruptions have compounded the crisis, making basic necessities unaffordable for many.

- **Northeast (Northern Shan and Kachin):** The Northeast has been severely impacted by the proliferation of fighting since October 2023

when so called 'Operation 1027' was launched in northern Shan by the Three Brotherhood Alliance of the AA, the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDAA), and the Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA). A China-brokered northern Shan-specific ceasefire that was agreed in January is holding but remains fragile, bringing respite to traumatized communities in northern Shan but less so in Kachin. While most of the 140,000 people displaced in northern Shan in the days immediately after Operation 1027 have since returned home, nearly 13,000 people remain displaced in about 100 displacement sites. The security situation remains volatile with movement of both MAF and Three Brotherhood Alliance troops in some townships and frequent armed clashes between the MAF and People's Defence Forces (PDFs).

At the same time, conflict between the MAF and the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) and its allies has escalated in Kachin following a new wave of KIA offensives against MAF strongholds that started on 7 March. Fighting has driven thousands of people to flee. It is estimated that more than 57,000 people are newly displaced in 11 out of 18 townships in Kachin, mostly as a result of an escalation of conflict since early March. The new IDPs are in addition to the 92,500 displaced people who have remained in protracted camps for a decade. Since May, intense fighting has been getting closer to Kachin's capital, Myitkyina, impacting the movement of local communities, displaced people, and commodities, resulting in increasing prices and shortages of rice and fuel.

- **Southeast (Bago, Kayah, Kayin, Mon, southern Shan, Tanintharyi):** In the Southeast, intense fighting with aerial bombardment and artillery shelling continues in Bago, Kayah, Kayin, Mon, southern Shan, and Tanintharyi, resulting in the forced displacement of thousands of civilians. The conflict between the MAF and various armed groups has seen more than 15,500 people flee from villages in 4 townships in southern Shan since early March, more than 15,000 people from 4 townships in Tanintharyi, and at least 20,000 people in Kayin since mid-February. Fighting

across the Southeast has reportedly resulted in people being displaced multiple times, civilian casualties, including children, and the widespread destruction of civilian property. INGO and UN staff and their dependents have been unable to return to Loikaw (Kayah) since their relocation from there in November 2023 due to insecurity. The SAC's efforts to return IDPs to Hsihseng, Loikaw and Kawkareik town despite conditions being sub-optimal further complicates the humanitarian situation. Essential services are not functioning, and landmines, unexploded ordnance and drone attacks are key threats for people returning. The destruction of several bridges in Mon has disrupted road transportation and blocked the flow of essential goods and supplies between Yangon and the South, as well as the border trade with Thailand.

Most recently, the border town of Myawaddy, which lies on the largest trade route between the two countries, was temporarily taken over by the Karen National Union (KNU) in mid-April but has since been handed back to the Border Guard Force, which is in alliance with the MAF. The movement of people across borders is expected to continue to be fluid, with people fleeing towards Mae Sot in Thailand but also returns of those seeking temporary refuge. An estimated 4,000 people from Myawaddy town and surrounding areas remain displaced along the Myanmar-Thai border.

- **Northwest (Chin, Magway, Sagaing and Mandalay):** The Northwest has experienced the greatest intensification of conflict between the MAF and PDFs and has seen the biggest surge in displacement since the military takeover in 2021. There are more than 1.5 million IDPs in the Northwest, with the heaviest concentration in Sagaing. Random searches, arbitrary arrests and detentions, indiscriminate attacks, and widespread destruction of civilian property have all been reported during military raids. The blockage of main roads and other access restrictions has led to increases in commodity prices. The fear of recruitment for military service has forced young people to cross-border areas or locations where

the SAC no longer has control. The MAF has continued to carry out village raids and the parties to the conflict have increasingly used explosive devices and other forms of warfare across 34 out of 71 townships in the Northwest. In Mandalay, active clashes have been reported in 9 out of 28 townships since January, particularly in townships bordering northern Shan and Sagaing. Clashes between the MAF and PDFs/Chin resistance forces have intensified in Sagaing since late February. With fighting spreading into urban areas, displacement in the Northwest increased by more than 183,000 people from January until June 2024. Nearly 64,000 had been displaced from Chin into Mizoram state in India as of the end of May.

## Displacement

As of early June 2024, UN figures show the number of people displaced nationwide reached 3.1 million and continues to climb, with 2.8 million displaced since the military takeover in 2021. A large proportion of new IDPs are staying in jungles, forests or out in the open in hard-to-reach areas. With the end of the dry season, during which many have been enduring extreme heat conditions without proper shelter or safe water, many of those who have been displaced since the takeover will now be facing their fourth monsoon season

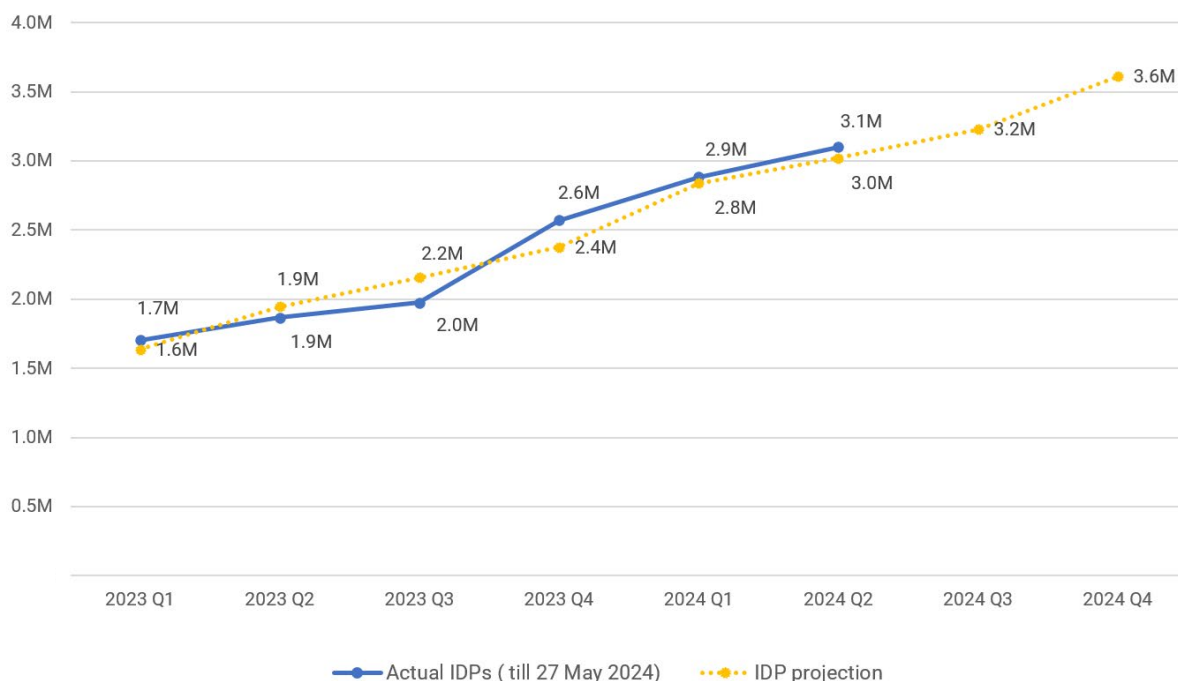
without a proper roof over their heads.<sup>1</sup> Tracking data shows that people continue to be displaced multiple times. The more times people are displaced, the faster their already limited resources are depleted, increasing their reliance on negative coping mechanisms to survive. People who are repeatedly on the move require a flexible package of assistance that is tailored to their differentiated needs and is delivered through more mobility-friendly support.

The HNRP originally projected that 3 million people would be displaced by the end of 2024 but this number has already been surpassed. New projections, based on recent displacement patterns, suggest that displacement may be as high as 3.6 million by year's end with fewer opportunities for people to return due to the volatile conflict dynamics and the heavy contamination of many places of origin with landmines and explosive remnants of war (ERW).

## Humanitarian space

Humanitarian actors are navigating a complex and volatile environment to provide aid and are using a complex mosaic of delivery approaches that is reach hundreds of thousands of people in need every month. Humanitarian partners have shown remarkable resilience and adaptability in their operations. By

### Updated displacement projection



1 Myanmar Humanitarian Update No.38 [24 May 2024] <https://www.unocha.org/publications/report/myanmar/myanmar-humanitarian-update-no-38-24-may-2024>



employing innovative approaches and leveraging local knowledge, they have been able to continue delivering aid and reaching those in need. Increased advocacy at the political and regional level, as well as additional funding from donors could significantly amplify these efforts, enabling humanitarian actors to overcome existing barriers and expand their reach. The commitment and adaptability of partners demonstrates that, even in the face of severe restrictions, it is possible to deliver critical assistance. With enhanced resources, we can do even more to alleviate the suffering of vulnerable populations across Myanmar, but humanitarians cannot do it alone.

This significant humanitarian response is happening in a high-risk environment with grave dangers to frontline responders and heavy access denials, particularly by the State Administration Council. The SAC continues to impose stringent restrictions on travel, banking, and visa processes. In conflict-affected areas such as Rakhine and Kachin, road and waterway closures, along with local movement restrictions, have isolated communities, creating shortages of food and cash, as well as preventing people from accessing essential services and aid. Humanitarian responders have increasingly encountered heightened inspection at checkpoints manned by the MAF and the PDFs. This has impacted the movements on the roads and waterways, affecting both civilian movements and transportation of goods and supplies. Partnerships with local organizations are crucial to the current

reach that is being achieved, especially in remote and conflict-affected areas but this increased reliance on civil society and community-based organizations is exposing them to risks which must be shared by the international community. Since January 2022, more than 155 aid workers have been detained or arrested, and there have been 27 casualties among aid workers, including 10 fatalities.<sup>2</sup>

With recent widespread changes in territorial control, expanded engagement with a wider range of parties and duty bearers will be required to facilitate delivery of assistance at-scale, including through more in-country cross-line approaches that complement the remote assistance that this being delivered by actors from outside the country. Commitment to humanitarian principles and the push for greater access and protection for civilians remain central to the response strategy, as is the complementarity of operational actors that have varied reach and expertise. Continued commitment to and concrete progress towards localization, in line with the new HCT Localization Strategy, increased humanitarian diplomacy at the political level by member states, and efforts to engage regional neighbours on addressing the crisis are essential to expanding reach and reducing suffering for millions of vulnerable people across Myanmar. Partners stand ready and able to do more but they need additional, flexible funding and support with humanitarian diplomacy to secure the access they need to further scale-up.

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<sup>2</sup> Access Monitoring and Reporting Framework (AMRF) Jan-Feb 2024

### 3. Impact on Needs

While difficult to quantify in the current conditions, field reports confirm worsening needs in many conflict-affected parts of the country, with many highly populated urban areas no longer immune from shortages of commodities and food, or from deadly protection threats such as landmines. Long-standing humanitarian assistance to very vulnerable populations in areas with historical displacement has also been heavily interrupted, exacerbating pre-existing needs. Lack of access to essential services including health, water and education are all taking a heavily toll on traumatized communities. Children are increasingly missing out on school in conflict areas and health needs are going untreated. Food insecurity is worsening with the risk of potentially deadly malnutrition around the corner if the needs are unaddressed. Millions of displaced people are now living without proper shelter, privacy, water, sanitation or items for daily life.

Of the 18.6 million people in need of humanitarian assistance in Myanmar, 9.7 million are women and girls, 6 million are children and 2.4 million are persons with a disability who all carry specific vulnerabilities and needs. Displacement, security risks, damage to infrastructure including health facilities, internet shutdowns, and the breakdown of the rule of law, have all reduced access to essential services for responding to and preventing violence against women and girls. Displaced people have been taking shelter in buildings that were damaged during Cyclone Mocha and have not been repaired since then. These accommodations are shared and mixed gender, offering little privacy and security for women and girls. Lack of easy access to proper sanitation and bathing facilities makes it difficult for displaced women and girls to maintain their personal hygiene and they do not have adequate

clothing and sanitary pads. Lack of health workers and medical supplies limits the ability to provide proper healthcare, including sexual and reproductive health services, to children and pregnant women. People with a disability are no longer able to access specialist care due to the breakdown in public services and, along with the elderly, face challenges moving to places of safety when fighting approaches. People within the conscription law age range have been going on the move, seeking safety in areas outside military control or leaving the country, exposing themselves to protection risks along the way including human trafficking. It is anticipated that there will be an increase in the number of female-headed households nationwide as men of conscription-age move to safer areas.

The economic landscape is also having a devastating impact on needs and underscores the need for complementary development funding to reduce pressure on humanitarian operations. New data shows that half of Myanmar's population (49.7 per cent) was living below the national poverty line of 1,590 Kyat per day by the end of 2023.<sup>3</sup> This compares to 46.3 per cent in 2022 and 24.8 per cent in 2017. Thus, over the last eight years, the share of Myanmar's population living in poverty has doubled. Throughout the nation, the median income was extremely low, close to the Survival Minimum Expenditure Basket (SMEB). The decline in income levels and limited income-generating capacity due to struggling industrial production and the sale of productive assets are pushing households to increasingly adopt dangerous negative coping mechanisms.<sup>4</sup> Illegal drug production and cross-border trade is adding to growing lawlessness and protection needs across the country and creating regional spillover effects.

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.undp.org/sites/g/files/zskgke326/files/2024-04/undp\\_poverty\\_and\\_the\\_household\\_economy\\_of\\_myanmar\\_-\\_a\\_disappearing\\_middle\\_class\\_april\\_2024.pdf](https://www.undp.org/sites/g/files/zskgke326/files/2024-04/undp_poverty_and_the_household_economy_of_myanmar_-_a_disappearing_middle_class_april_2024.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> *ibid*

Rising prices, banking and communication disruptions, infrastructure damage and transport blockages have compounded the crisis, making basic necessities unaffordable for many and increasing needs for humanitarian assistance. Communities are often finding ways to stock markets through commercial suppliers, but prices are inflated and unaffordable for many. Inflation has driven some incomes up, but has also decreased others. The increase in staple food prices is providing incentives for farmers, but many are not able to get their produce or livestock to markets due to conflict and movement restrictions. Transport blockages and restrictions, as well as damage to key infrastructure such as bridges are also affecting the movement of both goods being imported into the country by land and the movement of domestically produced goods to markets.

Partners continue to look to cash as a means of overcoming access constraints, with cash modalities providing a lifeline in many hard-to-reach communities. Monitoring shows many markets remain open and additional funding support from donors would allow an expansion of cash programming in areas where economies continue to function. Issues with the availability of cash have also posed challenges in conflict-affected areas where banks have closed, leaving alternative financial service providers as the only means of moving money, often with much higher fees.

## Education

- Increased attacks on schools and widespread explosive ordnance contamination have not only led to loss of education infrastructure (which was already glaringly inadequate), but have also instilled fear in communities, reducing the number of children regularly able to safely access education. In some of the conflict hotspots such as the Northwest (Sagaing), up to 80 per cent of children are not attending school regularly (4 days+ per week). A similar trend has also been observed in Rakhine and the Southeast.
- The negative changes in context and increased displacement in 2024 have further worsened people's vulnerability due to loss of livelihoods

which means they are increasingly unable to afford costs associated with education for their children. This means more children will require humanitarian support to stay engaged in education and other basic services.

Partners report increased needs in their areas of operation across the country, however the cluster's capacity to support scale up of the response is limited due to severe underfunding. Lack of financial support for the 2024 response will result in more children completely failing to access education, hence being at higher risk of various protection risks like child and early marriage, recruitment into armed groups, child labour, among other dangers.

## Food Security

- The escalation of conflict has exacerbated pre-existing food insecurity by reducing access to markets, food, and livelihoods, and making food unaffordable. Production and transport interruptions in conflict areas have also heavily impacted availability. An ongoing lack of funds will make it impossible to reach the targets set in the 2024 HNRP in terms of food assistance and agriculture and livelihoods support, even as needs are increasing.
- The food security outlook for the lean season suggests a worsening of needs in Q2 and Q3. For the peak lean season (June to August 2024), the Cluster estimates that approximately 13.3 million people (against the initial peak lean season projection of 12.9 million) will face high acute food insecurity (phase 3 or above with 2.7 million people in phase 4 and 10.6 million in phase 3). Of particular note is the significant deterioration in food insecurity in the northern townships of Rakhine and northern Shan. This has grave potential implications for malnutrition if unaddressed.
- Based on the latest analysis from data collected in April/May 2024, the worst food security outcomes were observed in Chin, Kayah, Rakhine, and Tanintharyi. The trends for food security indicators show a deterioration in Chin, Mandalay, Kayin, and Tanintharyi since December 2023/January 2024;

limited information is available from the most conflict affected areas in Kayah and Rakhine. All but two States/Regions have experienced some deterioration in food security conditions since April/May 2023.

- The use of crisis and emergency livelihood coping strategies remains at elevated levels, with households adopting asset-depleting strategies which are very difficult to reverse. Based on the latest analysis from data collected in April/May 2024, 37 per cent of people in Myanmar were adopting Crisis or Emergency livelihoods coping strategies with very high levels in Chin and Kayah states (67 per cent for both). The escalation of conflict has also seen a spread in the contamination of farmlands with unexploded ordnance, which undermines farmer's ability to produce food and send it to market. Evidence collected in April/May 2024 suggests that major livelihood changes were being seen in conflict affected areas, such as abandoning land, getting rid of animals, or migrating. The Cluster anticipates that food insecurity will continue to increase in the coming months, with the most vulnerable areas and IDPs/returnees potentially facing unprecedented levels of food insecurity if scaled up aid is not possible due to underfunding. Based on the latest analysis from data collected in April/May 2024, returnees show a higher level of food insecurity when compared to IDPs. Rapid needs assessments and surveys conducted by Cluster partners have revealed a dramatic increase in the need for food assistance, followed by support for livelihoods.
- Access constraints, inflation, and severe underfunding are the main factors limiting the provision of food security assistance. Inflation, import restrictions and increased needs on the ground have already seen partners resort to i) a reduction in the food basket being provided and the number of rounds of assistance being delivered to each household, in order to reach a greater number of affected people; and ii) reducing their geographical coverage and number beneficiaries assisted with emergency agriculture livelihood support. In many areas, cash-based assistance is a possible way to scale-up reach and

navigate access constraints, if additional funding is received.

- As of the end of Q1 2024, the Cluster had reached 21 per cent of its targets (471,000 out of 2.3 million targeted people) against 36 per cent in Q1 2023 (748,000 out of 2.1 million). While this shows partners are able to reach affected people if funded, there are still significant gaps.

## Health

- Health Cluster partners are working to deliver life-saving health assistance in extreme conditions, with heavy bureaucratic impediments, widespread closures of facilities in conflict areas, and a lack of proper funding, medicines, and supplies for populations in grave need. Since the conflict escalation in October 2023, and increasingly from January 2024, there has been a significant decline in the proportion of medical teams able to maintain the minimum 3-month stock of medicines and medical supplies in northern Shan (30 per cent), the Northwest (50 per cent), Rakhine and Southern Chin (0 per cent). Furthermore, field assessments indicate a significant shortage of and increased prices for medicines and medical supplies. In central and northern Rakhine, an estimated 1.6 million people are now without any access to hospital care. These widening service interruptions are posing increased threats to the health of the nation and are increasing the risks posed by preventable, communicable disease including through lack of access to routine immunization and safe water.
- At the close of the first quarter in 2024, the Cluster partners had reached 72,000 people achieving less than 3 per cent of the target for the year. This quarterly number is only one fifth of the number of people reached in the same period in 2023. This significant decline is primarily due to the triple challenges posed since October 2023, namely funding shortfalls, access restrictions and the interconnected reporting and security concerns face by organizations.
- Increased humanitarian diplomacy on the consequences of health interruptions is needed,



including with Myanmar's neighbours given the regional implications if disease goes unchecked.

## Nutrition

- The changes in context, bureaucratic impediments and severe underfunding have negatively impacted the Nutrition Cluster's work during the first quarter. While Rakhine has been disproportionately affected by the widening conflict, proxy indicators and anecdotal evidence also suggest a deteriorating nutrition situation in other areas including the Northeast, Northwest, and Southeast. The deterioration in these areas is in keeping with widespread conflict and displacement along with worsening food security conditions and severe constraints on the delivery of life-saving therapeutic foods. The deterioration of food security conditions is often a precursor to acute malnutrition affecting the most vulnerable children under five years, pregnant and lactating women.
- Malnutrition most severely affects unborn children and those below five years, as well as pregnant and lactating women - all of whom are at their most vulnerable stages in their lives. While there have been no quantitative assessments to confirm the current prevalence of acute malnutrition, proxy evidence from the most recent food and nutrition security analysis and other dietary diversity related assessments indicates a worsening situation. Interruptions to support delivered by other clusters such as WASH services have resulted in elevated disease outbreaks in camp contexts, and this, in turn, has implications for malnutrition. Failure to intervene and respond to nutritional needs invariably results in irreversible consequences for children's lives, particularly within the first 1,000 days.

## Protection

- The protection environment has spiraled in the past six months with pervasive human rights violations and breaches of international humanitarian law, elevated safety threats in conflict-affected areas and inter-communal tensions simmering in Rakhine. In Rakhine,

implementation of the conscription law and forced recruitment has been recorded in Sittwe, Kyaukpyu, Buthidaung, and Maungdaw townships. Some young Rakhine people have reportedly moved to AA areas to avoid conscription. There are reports of Rohingya people being coerced into fighting through incentives and threats, fuelling inter-ethnic tension.

- Key protection issues include forced recruitment, illegal or unsafe child migration including unaccompanied and separated children and smuggling, child labour, grave violations, psychosocial distress, early marriage and arbitrary detention. Reports from partners and monitoring missions have revealed that women and girls have been facing difficulties in purchasing sanitary products as they need to prioritize daily food costs. There is a high demand for sanitary products throughout Rakhine due to the lack of availability in markets. Throughout the conflict-affected areas, early marriage and unsafe migration have been on the rise, especially in rural communities, partly due to the conscription law. Children are also being recruited into ethnic armed groups where they have family affiliations, in order to avoid conscription. There is significant need to address the issue of human trafficking and to provide enhanced support to trafficking survivors in Kachin and northern Shan. In the Northwest, Gender-Based Violence (GBV) risk mitigation and responses are urgently needed.
- Landmine and explosive ordnance incidents are now being reported across all states and regions with the exception of Nay Pyi Taw, with a concerning trend of expansion into residential areas, heightening risks for civilians. Moreover, the increased use of improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and the presence of unexploded ordnance in populated areas are presenting new threats to civilian lives.
- The Protection Cluster, including its related areas of responsibility (AoRs), has planned to reach 3 million people by the end of the year. However, by the end of Q1, only 10 per cent (291,000 people) were reached, compared to more than 30 per cent (650,000 people) at the same time last year. This decline is primarily due to lack of access

and funding with only \$14 million (8 per cent of the Cluster's \$161 million funding requirement) received by the end of Q1. Data from Q1 reveals that 2.7 million people prioritized for protection assistance in 2024 have not been reached with any kind of support due to severe underfunding and access restrictions. Coordinated diplomacy is needed to underscore the urgency of protection interventions for vulnerable communities caught between parties to the conflict.

- The Protection Cluster and its AoRs continue to strengthen and improve protection mainstreaming as most national and local actors are multi-sectoral agencies working directly with communities and negotiating localized and specific access for their operations. Protection actors identification and service mapping needs to be undertaken to improve understanding of partner presence, access to and availability of different types of protection services and options for providing cash-based assistance. Support from other clusters on disseminating key messages, including child protection messaging, is also being implemented to overcome access and other constraints.
- Challenges identified by partners include underfunding, access constraints, worsening communication, internet disruptions, and increasing operational costs. Remote service provision is not an option in areas where the internet has been cut and physical access is becoming critical. Protection partners highlight the need for improving and diversifying humanitarian access and negotiation engagements to include all armed groups.

## Shelter/NFI/CCCM

- Surging displacement and destruction of shelter in airstrikes and arson attacks has dramatically increased needs for emergency shelter, NFI and CCCM support over the past six months.
- Due to escalating conflict in parts of the Northeast, the Cluster has observed that displaced communities are seeking to relocate to safer locations, including premature return to their village of origin, where they are hosted in communities or move to unplanned settlement sites. According

to the Cluster Analysis Report in February, shelter coverage in protracted sites remained low (around 25 per cent), and NFI distributions are decreasing across the Northeast when compared to December 2023 and January 2024.

- In the Southeast, a recent rapid needs analysis in 4 townships in Kayin, Mon and Tanintharyi states, covering more than 10,000 people, indicated significant NFI and shelter needs. In Kayah, 72,000 displaced people in unplanned settlements around host communities need tarpaulins and other items replaced before the monsoon season.
- In the Northwest, most of the 1.5 million people displaced across Chin, Magway, and Sagaing have not received any humanitarian assistance, and need emergency shelter kits and other essential relief items (in kind or cash) to strengthen their shelter situation. Multi-purpose, unrestricted cash assistance is also a way these needs could be effectively addressed. Strong winds in Chin in late March destroyed more than 2,000 houses in Hakha, Thantlang, Falam, Matupi, Mindat and Kanpetlet townships, exacerbating needs.
- In Rakhine, the more than 149,000 displaced stateless people who live in camps and new IDPs who live in other displacement sites need core relief items, access to basic services and cash.
- Underfunding and access constraints are limiting the Cluster's activities and exposing communities to a state of prolonged vulnerability, undermining their dignity and resilience. A lack of financial resources is hampering partners' capacity to effectively address emergent needs and sustain ongoing interventions. The inability to complete planned shelter repairs in Rakhine is prolonging people's suffering. Despite concerted efforts to adapt that have enabled the Cluster's work to continue via various modalities, underfunding had led to delays in the procurement and distribution of critical supplies, reduced coverage of assistance, and compromised quality of services. As a result, vulnerable populations faced heightened risks and increased hardship, underscoring the urgent need for enhanced support and investment to bolster humanitarian efforts. Humanitarian access, inflation, market constraints and funding remain

the major challenges and scaled-up, strategic access advocacy is critical.

- There has been a huge gap in shelter, CCCM and NFI interventions both to people who were recently displaced and those who are in the process of finding more durable solutions. In addition, communication issues are stopping partners from conducting proper needs assessments. Humanitarian access, roadblocks, and restrictions on transporting shelter items are hindering market availability of shelter items locally. In terms of security and safety of partners, there had been increasing intimidation at checkpoints, arbitrary arrest, extortion, and harassment and physical violence. Active armed clashes and frequent military raids have caused new displacement that is beyond the actors' capacities to respond in a timely manner with the current level of resources.

## WASH

- The evolving conflict and severe underfunding have significantly heightened humanitarian needs across Myanmar, particularly impacting regions such as the Northwest, Rakhine, and the Southeast. While partners have continued to deliver through diverse approaches, rapid changes in context, combined with severe underfunding, have critically affected WASH cluster operations across Myanmar. The most severe challenges include limited access to affected populations, restricted movement and pre-positioning of supplies, communication issues with partners, and inadequate funding. This situation increases health risks and vulnerability among affected populations due to inadequate access to clean water, sanitation facilities, and hygiene supplies. In addition, the WASH cluster anticipates a lack of contingency stocks during the monsoon season, including those for the operation, maintenance and desludging of sanitation facilities, will be the biggest challenges.
- In Rakhine, intense clashes have led to widespread displacement and rising needs for emergency water, sanitation and hygiene support, overwhelming the Cluster's resources. Cluster members have struggled to meet people's water needs due to escalating conflict and severe underfunding. Water scarcity has led to outbreaks of Acute Watery Diarrhoea (AWD) in Rakhine, with blocked transportation routes preventing timely water deliveries and disrupting key activities like water quality testing. A ban on transporting sanitary pads is exacerbating the plight of women and girls.
- In the Northwest, escalating conflict and restrictions by the SAC are hindering the delivery of humanitarian aid, with funding limitations and the need for engagement with a widening array of armed groups delaying WASH assistance. This has left many needs unmet.
- In the Southeast, continuous conflict and displacement are exacerbating overcrowding in camps and host communities. Displaced populations, especially in jungle sites without running water are facing severe water shortages and are struggling to maintain personal hygiene and cooking needs, often resorting to buying water. The lack of easily available, safe water increases the risk of waterborne disease and sanitation-related illnesses. Underfunding has constrained the cluster's response to AWD and skin diseases, with people resorting to contaminated water sources. Despite water trucking support, the minimum daily water needs of the population remain unmet, increasing the risk of waterborne diseases and sanitation-related illnesses. Ongoing assessments highlight the urgent need for increased funding and access to meet WASH-related needs and mitigate the humanitarian crisis.
- In Kachin, funding shortages and restricted access due to ongoing conflict have left WASH partners unable to provide basic services in displacement sites. Rising inflation has increased project costs, hygiene item prices and safety concerns for staff, including forced recruitment risks, add to the operational difficulties.

## 4. Consequences of Underfunding

If current rates of donor contribution continue for the remainder of the year, annual funding to the HNRP would not exceed 25 per cent in 2024. While donors have indicated additional funding is in the pipeline, fast-tracking of such commitments is essential to avoid prolonging people's suffering through until later in the year. The original 2024 HNRP was already heavily prioritized with less than a third of those in need targeted for assistance according to severity but without additional funds, even this figure will be out of reach. 2024 HNRP sets out a realistic and strategic plan for addressing the most serious needs of affected people with a heavy emphasis on under-served communities in hard-to-reach conflict areas and IDPs. Continued funding gaps will mean that more people in these more severe categories of need will miss out on support with deadly consequences.

Clusters are already starting to make tough prioritization decisions about who receives the limited available aid and who misses out. This will only escalate if Myanmar's funding position does not quickly improve. Without the required funds, humanitarian partners will have to prioritize further, favouring lower cost life-saving and critical activities that do not offer the required depth of relief or contribute to people's overall well-being, offer dignified living conditions, meet global standards, or provide a chance of finding durable solutions. Persistent unmet needs will continue having residual implications for subsequent years, with needs worsening over time and requiring more elaborate interventions in future. With prior coping capacities all but exhausted and worsening food insecurity, there is a very real possibility that the most vulnerable, especially IDPs, may die if they do not receive support.

In the face of ongoing underfunding, clusters will apply different approaches to prioritization based on the nature of the support they deliver considering

factors including who receives assistance (population groups), where (in what settings or parts of the country), what type of support is offered (de-prioritization of some activities) and how much assistance each person receives (reduction in the volume of support to each beneficiary). Some clusters would reduce the overall number of people reached, while others would retain their target, but the depth and quality of that assistance would be reduced. Assistance would be less multi-sectoral with the overall ability of clusters to address the full spectrum of people's needs heavily reduced.

In 2023, 1.8 million people targeted for assistance missed out on receiving any support from the humanitarian community because of underfunding of both the humanitarian and development responses, as well as access blockages. Currently, there are more than 4.3 million people prioritized for support in 2024 who have not received any assistance at all and many of them will not be reached this year or will receive inadequate packages of support if resourcing of the response does not improve. Underfunding last year meant that few of the 3.2 million people who were reached received the full package of multi-sectoral assistance that was planned, leaving many of their needs unaddressed. This has increased the scale and severity of needs in 2024. During 2024, nearly 2 million people are expected to fall into the highest category of needs severity (catastrophic), whereas over the past 2 years only a small number fell into this category (151,000 in 2022 and none in 2023). Decisive action is needed by donors to raise the profile of the crisis and scale-up resources this year to prevent a repeat of this year-on-year pattern of spiralling unaddressed need.

It is also critical for planned complementary development action under the Transitional Cooperation Framework (TCF) to be fully funded in order to reduce pressure on humanitarian needs. For example, nutrition



responses in Yangon were originally considered to be outside the scope of humanitarian action in the HNRP for 2024 as these were to be carried out by development actors under the TCF. But the absence of development activities and funding is pushing people with nutrition needs in peri-urban Yangon back towards the humanitarian caseload, when their needs could be more effectively addressed earlier through preventative and less intensive development interventions. While the scale of these needs in Yangon is currently difficult to quantify, anecdotal evidence suggest that many people's needs are becoming acute, and humanitarians

may soon need to reconsider the scope of their nutrition interventions.

The below provides an overview of the human consequences if only 25 per cent of funding for the Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan is realized by year's end and access advocacy does not bear fruit. While it is hoped that this funding level is surpassed and promised donor increases in funding materialize in the coming months, these are not yet guaranteed and are becoming increasingly urgent to prevent immediate suffering.

#### At 25 per cent funding:

- Education partners will no longer be able to provide education support to more than 1 million learners and educators targeted in the HNRP.
- More than 700,000 targeted IDPs and stateless people and 800,000 people prioritized from host communities will miss out on food assistance.
- More than 250,000 people prioritized from all vulnerable groups will miss out on agriculture and livelihoods assistance.
- An estimated 462,000 people who had been targeted for nutrition assistance will miss out on life-saving humanitarian support.
- Health partners will have to de-prioritize non-IDP locations, meaning about 1 million people who had been targeted for support will not be reached.
- The Protection Cluster's scope of activities and geographical coverage would shrink leaving vulnerable people exposed to threats.
- Shelter/NFI/CCCM partners would need to de-prioritize the 'other crisis-affected people with humanitarian needs' population group with up to 75 per cent of those originally prioritized likely to miss out on support.
- More than 2 million people, including around 1.5 million IDPs and approximately 800,000 returned, resettled, integrated IDPs and non-displaced stateless populations, will miss out on essential WASH services if affected by disease outbreaks or natural disasters.

#### Education

- If 25 per cent of requirements are received, the Education Cluster will no longer be able to provide education support in emergencies to more than 1 million learners and educators – including 404,000 IDPs, 76,000 IDP returnees, 37,000 non-displaced stateless people and 505,000 other crisis-affected people with humanitarian needs - targeted in the 2024 HNRP. This would expose them to further protection risks including child trafficking, exploitation, child labour, child marriage and sexual exploitation and abuse which would hinder their development and fulfilment of their full potential. Almost all (98 per cent) of those to miss out on education services and support would be children.
- With very limited resources, frequency of activities like teacher trainings, replenishment of education supplies will need to be kept to the bare minimum – which unfortunately would fall short of Cluster quality standards.
- The most vulnerable population groups will continue to be prioritized, while 'other crisis-affected people' will be de-prioritized – which would undermine efforts to support host communities.
- If underfunding of Education in Emergencies continues through this year, and complementary development funding does not materialize, there is a real risk of losing an entire generation of Myanmar children and youth. It is likely that

growing numbers of children will not be able sit for their university entrance exams, with life-long consequences for the future earning potential.

## Food Security

- People living in areas most affected by the conflict and displacement are highly dependent on humanitarian food assistance, while some are fully dependent, such as the stateless people in Rakhine. Reduced funding is making it impossible to reach the Cluster's prioritized targets and absorb the ever-increasing caseload of new beneficiaries.
- Underfunding will result in livelihoods falling beyond the point of repair. Asset-depleted households invest less in productive activities, triggering a vicious cycle, in which they ultimately produce and earn less. This has long-term implications for the country's development.
- If underfunding continues at current levels, the Food Security Cluster will have to focus on the most critically food insecure people (i.e. new IDPs and stateless people in Rakhine).
- The lack of funds, along with inflation, will force partners to decrease their food assistance either by reducing the number of rounds of support provided or by reducing the size of the food basket from full to half ration. Support for agriculture and livelihoods will be provided on a smaller scale in areas where people are still cultivating despite the ongoing fighting such as in the Northwest.
- In the case of only 25 per cent of required funding being received, more than 700,000 targeted IDPs and stateless people and 800,000 people prioritized from host communities will miss out on food assistance, while more than 250,000 people prioritized from all vulnerable groups will miss out on agriculture and livelihoods assistance.
- This is the second year in a row that Myanmar is facing a significant decrease in funds despite rising food insecurity. If funds allocated to food security remain low coming years there is a risk that additional areas such as Kayah, Kayin, and Sagaing, as well as all IDPs, may fall into the emergency (phase 4) classification, with the risk of hunger-related death rapidly increasing.

## Health

- With only 2.3 per cent of the required funds received so far in 2024, partners have already substantially reduced their planned support. Some have stopped their operations (mainly in the Southeast) due to the lack of funding; others have been stretching existing resources to maintain informal life-saving primary healthcare services, with financial support for referrals and donation of medicines and medical supplies.
- With continuous underfunding, and the depletion of funds already received, the Health Cluster will soon be forced to revert to voluntary health services, patient self-management and teleconsultations only. Additionally, the Health Cluster will have to de-prioritize non-IDP locations, de-prioritizing about 1 million people in need who had been targeted for assistance.

## Nutrition

- Nutrition Cluster operations have been hampered by the rapid changes in context. As a result, access to children for treatment of acute malnutrition has been reduced by two thirds compared to achievements at the same time in 2023. With just one per cent of funding requested by the cluster in the 2024 HNRP received by the end of the first quarter and little changing by the five-month mark, cluster achievements have reduced markedly across all areas of treatment and prevention of acute malnutrition.
- In the event that only 25 per cent of required funding is received, the Nutrition Cluster will be forced to either focus on life-saving treatment only or reduce the frequency and depth of management of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) and other preventative interventions. Apart from this, the focus will be to prioritize IDPs, IDP returnees, stateless persons in Rakhine, while resettled locally integrated IDPs and other crisis-affected people with humanitarian needs will be de-prioritized. Preventative interventions such as Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) and micronutrient treatment will not be prioritized for vulnerable groups who would instead have to rely on development initiatives outside the HNRP

if activities under the Transitional Cooperation Framework are funded and available. At 25 per cent funding, approximately 462,000 people who had been targeted for assistance will miss out on life-saving humanitarian support. The impact of this on the beneficiaries will be catastrophic and will contribute to long-term negative impacts on children, and potential deaths.

- In the short term, this underfunding and the resulting cuts to services will risk increasing rates of morbidity and mortality due to the vicious cycle between malnutrition and infections. Sub-optimal WASH conditions among other contributory factors will affect children mostly and this will affect their ability to grow normally. In the long term, malnutrition jeopardizes the long-term survival and developmental prospects of children, communities, and the country at large. Educational achievements are negatively affected and productivity in adult life is also impacted by long-term malnutrition. Additionally, poor birth outcomes for pregnant women negatively impact maternal and child health.

## Protection

- If the Protection Cluster, including its AoRs, only receive 25 per cent of required funding, protection partners would be forced to de-prioritize more complex and long-term protection activities, including life-saving case management and provision of targeted/specialized support to persons with specific needs/risks, including persons with disabilities.
- The Protection Cluster will continue to prioritize all population groups, focusing on those at greater risks and most in need as the situation evolves and the conflict dynamics change. However, protection partners will de-prioritize hard-to-reach areas and regions they cannot access due to control issues, maximizing impact in a more limited range of locations. Protection partners will be forced to shift their focus from long-term services, such as psychosocial support and case management to emergency responses, including cash assistance and referrals. Protection partners will also have to adopt mobile approaches to reach people, using mobile teams instead of maintaining a static presence.
- The CP AoR will prioritize community-level child protection activities, helping populations to develop their own protection mechanisms to support children. Unfortunately, life-saving activities such as case management for children, will need to be de-prioritized.
- Similarly, the GBV AoR will prioritize community-based GBV response services as life-saving interventions. However, GBV prevention activities, which are critical for addressing the root causes of GBV, will be de-prioritized. The distribution of dignity kits will also be significantly reduced, despite the increasing needs of women and girls of reproductive age for hygiene materials.
- The Mine Action (MA) AoR will prioritize assisting individuals who are displaced from their homes and those returning to locations at risk of landmine and explosive ordnance contamination.

## Shelter/NFI/CCCM

- If the Shelter/NFI and CCCM Cluster response remains underfunded at a mere 25 per cent, the consequences for those prioritized for humanitarian assistance would be dire. With such insufficient funding, partners will be unable to adequately address the pressing shelter and non-food item needs of affected people. This shortfall would result in a lack of essential materials such as emergency shelter items, NFIs and CCCM support, leaving vulnerable people exposed to harsh weather conditions, undignified living arrangements, and increased protection and health risks. Moreover, the limited resources would force the Cluster to even more heavily prioritize assistance, inevitably leaving many without the support they desperately require. Ultimately, an underfunded response at this level would exacerbate the suffering of those already enduring crises, perpetuating cycles of vulnerability and hindering efforts to promote recovery and resilience.
- Unless funding increases, the Shelter, NFI and CCCM Cluster will not be able to provide life-saving assistance to all of the planned target population.

In the worst-case funding scenario, the 'other crisis-affected people with humanitarian needs' target population group would be considered for de-prioritization, with up to 75 per cent of those targeted likely to miss out on support at this 25 per cent funding level.

- If the underfunding continues, the consequences for shelter, NFI and CCCM needs are most likely to be enduring. The lack of funding jeopardizes humanitarian assistance and would exacerbate existing vulnerabilities of affected people. If the Cluster does not have the required level of financial support, people would struggle to maintain adequate and safe shelter, leaving them exposed to protection and safety risks. The lack of essential emergency shelter support and NFI provision would undermine efforts to ensure dignified living conditions, exposing people to protection and health risks and diminishing overall well-being.

## WASH

- In the face of severe underfunding for the remainder of the year, the WASH Cluster will need to implement a stringent prioritization strategy to maximize the impact of its limited resources. This will involve prioritizing assistance to the most vulnerable groups, such as those living in protracted camps, newly displaced people, and areas affected by disease outbreaks and natural disasters. This will also mean de-prioritizing or discontinuing new infrastructure projects, focusing instead on maintenance activities to address urgent problems and the prevention of disease outbreaks. The WASH cluster will focus on critical,

immediate needs through measures such as water trucking, emergency sanitation facilities, and hygiene promotion to prioritized locations. Limited WASH assistance will be possible for returned, resettled, integrated, and non-displaced stateless populations unless they are affected by disease outbreaks and natural disasters.

- If funding reaches only 25 per cent, critical activities such as water quality testing, new infrastructure projects, and comprehensive sanitation services will be scaled back or stopped. Overall, over 2 million people, including around 1.5 million IDPs and approximately 800,000 returned, resettled, integrated IDPs and non-displaced stateless populations, will miss out on essential WASH services if affected by disease outbreaks or natural disasters. Short-term impacts include increased health risks from inadequate access to clean water and sanitation facilities, while long-term consequences involve deteriorating WASH infrastructure, massive disease outbreaks, and a significant increase in unmet humanitarian needs. In Kachin, Northwest, Rakhine, and Southeast, water scarcity and hygiene issues will worsen, increasing the risk of diseases like AWD. Without sufficient funding, the WASH cluster will be unable to meet the water needs of IDPs and vulnerable communities, forcing reliance on unclean water sources and heightening health risks. While the Cluster would continue to work with local CSOs and communities to optimize resource use and build long-term resilience, maintaining a minimum service package will be challenging.



# MYANMAR



**18.6 MILLION**  
PEOPLE IN NEED



**5.3 MILLION**  
PEOPLE TARGETED

**949K (18%)**  
PEOPLE REACHED 2024



**\$994 MILLION**  
FUNDING REQUIRED

**\$49.3 MILLION (5%)**  
RECEIVED<sup>1</sup>



**171**  
PARTNERS

## STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

- Protection risks and needs are identified, monitored, mitigated, and met for 3 million people, while the centrality of protection is upheld across the humanitarian response including through promotion of respect for human rights, international humanitarian law and humanitarian principles
- Suffering, morbidity, and mortality is prevented or reduced among 3.7 million displaced, returned, stateless and other crisis-affected people experiencing or at risk of food insecurity, malnutrition, and health threats
- At least 2.5 million, returned, stateless and other crisis-affected people have safe, tailored, timely and dignified access to the essential services and support to ensure their survival and prevent deterioration of their humanitarian needs

Photo: UNHCR

# HUMANITARIAN NEEDS AND RESPONSE PLAN 2024

## QUARTER ONE DASHBOARD (JAN - MAR 2024)

### OVERVIEW

The humanitarian crisis in Myanmar has deteriorated dramatically in the first quarter of 2024, characterized by persistent conflict, widespread insecurity, surging displacement and disrupted basic services. The intensification of fighting, aerial bombardment in urban areas and growing explosive ordnance contamination is having severe consequences for millions of civilians, exacerbating humanitarian needs across the country, including shortages of food and lack of access to critical services such as health and WASH. Amid the escalating conflict, the number of internally displaced people (IDPs) had surged to 2.9 million by 31 March, reflecting a significant increase from 2.6 million at the start of 2024. Changes in territorial control in many parts of the country have made humanitarian operations increasingly complex and conflict dynamics in Rakhine are fueling worrying inter-communal tension.

Despite these daunting challenges, humanitarian partners remained committed to delivering assistance to meet the deepening needs of affected populations, reaching

almost 950,000 people during the first quarter. However, a comparison between the first quarters of 2023 and 2024 reveals a concerning trend with the percentage of the targeted population reached decreasing from 27 per cent in 2023 to 18 per cent in 2024. This 9 per cent decline is likely the product of both severe underfunding and the heavily restricted operating environment. The 2024 Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan (HNRP) remains alarmingly under-resourced, with only 5 per cent of required funding received, according to the Financial Tracking Service (FTS) as of 31 March. This is despite the deepening needs, the surge in new displacement, and soaring inflation that have further stretched the grossly insufficient resources across clusters.

Challenges posed by funding shortages and access constraints were exacerbated by the targeting of aid workers by parties to the conflict. Between January and March, humanitarian organizations reported a total of 359 access incidents across the country, impeding the delivery of vital assistance and services to conflict-affected populations

### KEY ACHIEVEMENTS BY CLUSTER

CLUSTER	PEOPLE IN NEED	PEOPLE TARGETED	PEOPLE REACHED	WOMEN	% CHILDREN, ADULTS, ELDERLY (<18yrs, 18-59yrs, 60+yrs)	FUNDING REQUIRED (US\$)	FUNDING RECEIVED (US\$) <sup>1</sup>
EDUCATION	4.5M	1.4M	12% 158K	54%	85%   15%   0%	94M	1.5% 1.5M
FOOD SECURITY	12.9M	2.3M	21% 471K	52%	35%   54%   11%	289M	1.2% 3.6M
HEALTH	12.1M	2.7M	3% 72K	68%	26%   64%   10%	130M	2.3% 2.9M
NUTRITION	2.2M	0.6M	18% 114K	59%	81%   19%   0%	58M	0.7% 0.4M
PROTECTION	12.2M	3M	8% 291K	52%	32%   57%   11%	161M	5.8% 9.3M
General	10.4M	2.8M	3% 83K	52%	32%   57%   11%		
Child Protection	8M	2.0M	7% 115K	52%	32%   57%   11%		
Gender Based Violence	8.8M	1.6M	2% 43K	52%	32%   57%   11%		
Mine Action	5.6M	2.0M	2% 50K	52%	32%   57%   11%		
SHELTER/NFI/CCCM	4.3M	1.3M	25% 331K	52%	32%   57%   11%	149M	0.7% 1.1M
WASH	5.6M	1.7M	21% 355K	52%	37%   55%   8%	106M	4.3% 4.5M
COORDINATION AND COMMON SERVICES						7M	7.1% 0.5M
CLUSTER NOT SPECIFIED							25.5M
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>18.6M</b>	<b>5.3M</b>	<b>18% 949K</b>	<b>53%</b>	<b>44%   47%   9%</b>	<b>994M</b>	<b>5% 49.3M</b>

<sup>1</sup> Based on FTS records as of 31 March 2024.

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

# MYANMAR: HUMANITARIAN NEEDS AND RESPONSE PLAN 2024

## QUARTER ONE DASHBOARD (JAN - MAR 2024)

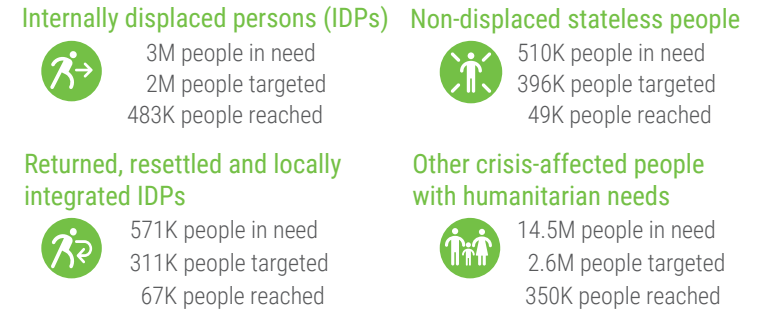
particularly in Rakhine, northern Shan, Kayin and Sagaing. In the face of these challenges, humanitarian partners prioritized assistance for the most vulnerable groups, including IDPs, returnees, resettled and locally integrated IDPs, and non-displaced stateless people. Collectively, partners reached 63 per cent of the people targeted in these population groups, including almost half a million IDPs. However, coverage for other crisis-affected people remained lower at 36 per cent of total targets.

Humanitarian efforts were marginally scaled up in the worst-hit areas especially in the Northeast (Kachin and northern Shan) and Rakhine, reaching between 28 and 36 per cent of the total annual targets for these areas. The Shelter/NFI/CCCM cluster reached the highest proportion of its target at 25 per cent, followed by Food Security and WASH (21 per cent each), although underreporting of activities remains a response-wide challenge. The percentage of people reached in the Health and Protection clusters was notably low (3 and 8 per cent respectively), highlighting gaps in healthcare and protection services and the added complexity of delivering

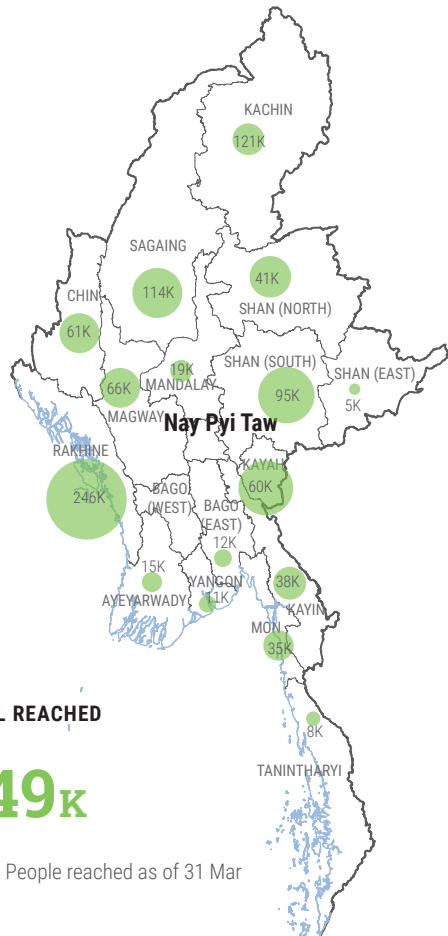
these types of activities in the current environment. These figures are based on self-reporting by partners and indicate an improvement in willingness to share progress but the numbers are still unlikely to be capturing all responses.

Looking ahead, projections suggest that Myanmar will continue to face challenges in responding to displacement, with the number of people fleeing their homes already nearly surpassing the full year IDP projection for 2024. Partners are actively developing an HNRP addendum to analyze new conflict and displacement trends and outline the dire consequences if current funding levels continue for the remainder of the year. Urgent action is needed to secure immediate funding to prevent further reductions in coverage and assistance packages, particularly for newly displaced people in vulnerable situations who stand to miss out on access to critical services. Continued commitment to localization among humanitarian actors, increased support from donors, and efforts to engage regional neighbours on addressing the crisis are essential to expanding reach and reducing suffering for millions of vulnerable people across Myanmar.

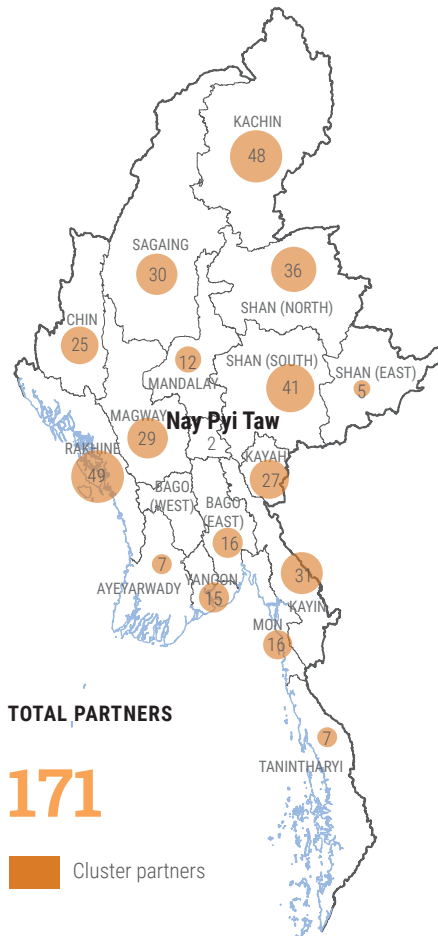
## KEY FIGURES BY POPULATION GROUP



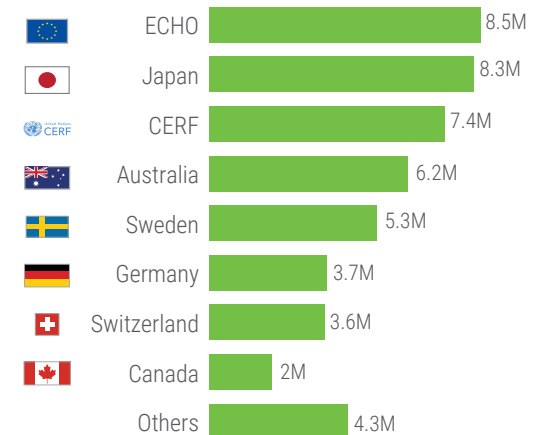
## PEOPLE REACHED BY STATE/REGION



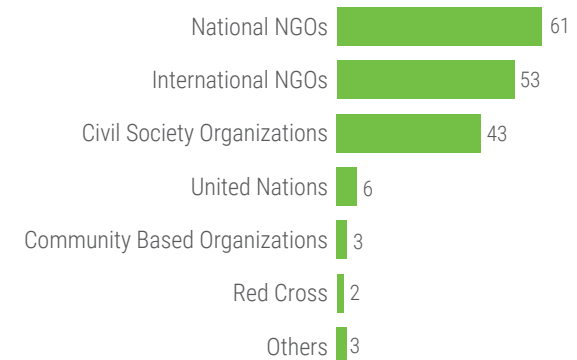
## PARTNERS BY STATE/REGION



## FUNDING BY DONOR (US\$) as of 31 March 2024



## HUMANITARIAN PARTNERS BY TYPE



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

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

# How to Contribute

## Contribute to the Humanitarian Response Plan

Myanmar's HRP provides an overview of sector-specific activities required to address the needs of affected people, and of the estimated funding requirements to address these needs. To learn more about the outstanding needs, gaps and response priorities, and to contact lead agencies, download the plan at:

[www.unocha.org/myanmar](http://www.unocha.org/myanmar)

## Contribute to the Myanmar Humanitarian Fund

The MHF is a multi-donor pooled fund that provides humanitarian organizations in Myanmar with rapid and flexible funding to address the most critical funding gaps of the humanitarian response.

[www.unocha.org/myanmar/about-myanmar-humanitarian-fund](http://www.unocha.org/myanmar/about-myanmar-humanitarian-fund)

## Donate to the Central Emergency Response Fund

The CERF provides funding for life-saving actions at the onset of emergencies and for poorly funded, essential humanitarian operations in protracted crises. The OCHA-managed CERF facility receives contributions from various donors – mainly governments, but also private companies, foundations, charities and individuals – which are combined into a single fund, to be used for crises anywhere in the world.

[cerf.un.org/donate](http://cerf.un.org/donate)

# About

This document is consolidated by OCHA on behalf of the Humanitarian Country Team and partners. It provides a shared understanding of the crisis, including the most pressing humanitarian need and the estimated number of people who need assistance. It represents a consolidated evidence base and helps inform joint strategic response planning.

*THE DESIGNATIONS EMPLOYED AND THE PRESENTATION OF MATERIAL IN THE REPORT DO NOT IMPLY THE EXPRESSION OF ANY OPINION WHATSOEVER ON THE PART OF THE SECRETARIAT OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONCERNING THE LEGAL STATUS OF ANY COUNTRY, TERRITORY, CITY OR AREA OR OF ITS AUTHORITIES, OR CONCERNING THE DELIMITATION OF ITS FRONTIERS OR BOUNDARIES.*

## Get the latest updates



OCHA coordinates humanitarian action to ensure crisis-affected people receive the assistance and protection they need. It works to overcome obstacles that impede humanitarian assistance from reaching people affected by crises, and provides leadership in mobilizing assistance and resources on behalf of the humanitarian system.

[www.unocha.org/myanmar](http://www.unocha.org/myanmar)

[twitter.com/ochamyanmar](https://twitter.com/ochamyanmar)

[www.facebook.com/OCHAMyanmar](https://www.facebook.com/OCHAMyanmar)

## Humanitarian Action

ANALYSING NEEDS AND RESPONSE

Humanitarian Action provides a comprehensive overview of the humanitarian landscape. It provides the latest verified information on needs and delivery of the humanitarian response as well as financial contributions.

[humanitarianaction.info](http://humanitarianaction.info)

## RW response

ReliefWeb Response is part of OCHA's commitment to the humanitarian community to ensure that relevant information in a humanitarian emergency is available to facilitate situational understanding and decision-making. It is the next generation of the Humanitarian Response platform.

[reliefweb.int/country/mmr](http://reliefweb.int/country/mmr)



The Financial Tracking Service (FTS) is the primary provider of continuously updated data on global humanitarian funding, and is a major contributor to strategic decision making by highlighting gaps and priorities, thus contributing to effective, efficient and principled humanitarian assistance.

[fts.unocha.org/](http://fts.unocha.org/)

[countries/153/summary/2024](http://countries/153/summary/2024)